GM

Feb 2024 Rs.50
01.02.2024

GLOBAL MOVIE

WWW.GLOBALMOVIE.IN

Life & Style of Stars

Once In A Blue Moon You Get A Lottery Like Animal Bhushan Kumar

Rishi Was Never A Friend To His Children Neetu Kapoor

3- 10 Best Cities In Kazakhstan To Visit

I am not completely new to success Teja Sajja

Happy film-makers are rediscovering me Shilpa Shetty

I Signed Up Movie As A Actor, Not As A Star

Hrithik Roshan

GLOBAL MOVIE
Life & Style of Stars

Fashion & Style

Health & Fitness

Love & Relationships

Business in B'wood

Travel & life style

Lumière Academy Of Cinemas

LUMIERE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL & AWARDS 2022 - 23

UVT Cinemas
presents

LUMIERE ACADEMY AWARDS
(Standalone Motion Pictures)
NOMINATION 22

LUMIÈRE INTERNATIONAL STANDALONE FILM FESTIVAL & AWARDS

JANUARY 06, 2023 AT 7 PM (PST)

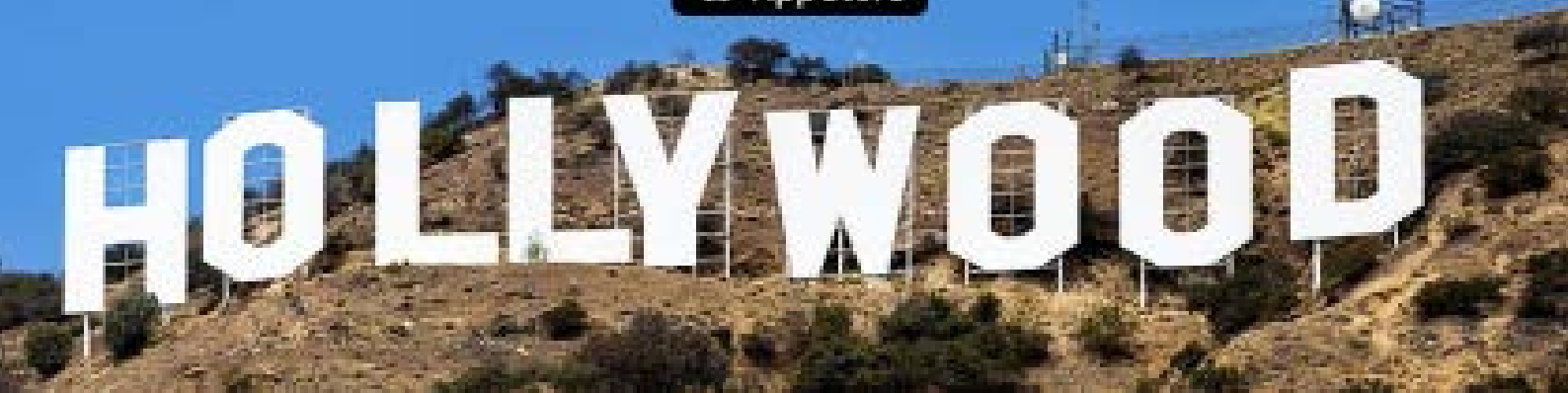
ON

STANDALONE STREAM

GLOBAL MOVIE OTT

GET IT ON Google Play

Download on the App Store



GLOBAL MOVIE
WWW.GLOBALMOVIE.IN
Life & Style of

Editor
SEEMA PIMPLEY

Co - Editor
Faisal Saif

Consulting - Editor
Lipika Varma

International Correspondent
Carlyta Mouhini

Special Correspondent
Aahana

Graphic Designer
Nasreen Qazi

Celeb Columnist &
Photo Journalist - **Shrisheel**

Feature News Writers
Sandeep Hattangady
Akshita Pawar

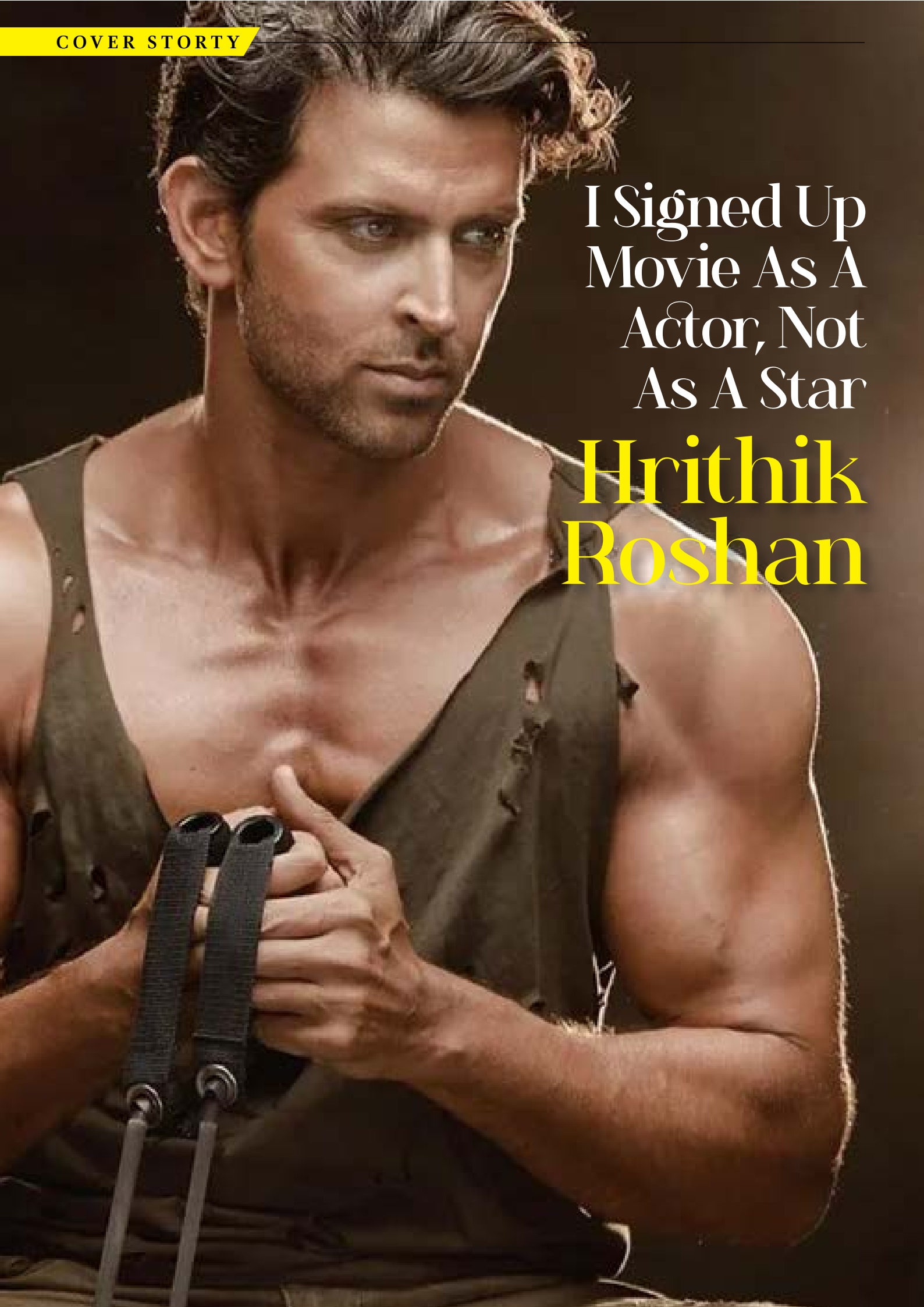
Photographer
Indrajeet Aurangabadkar

International Printing,
Publishing & Marketing Partner.
Slc global Group
303/3053 red Floor Dilkap chambers.
Behind hard rock cafe. Fun republic
lane. Vera desai. Andheri west.
Mumbai.400053
Phone: 9867256229

Global Pictures Media LTD.
UK - 450 Bath Road Longford,
Middlesex Heathrow UB7 0EB
USA - 21w 38th st FL9 New York 10018

Corporate Office
Global Movie Media PVT LTD.
Sargam Banglow, 4 Banglow, Andheri
(West). Mumbai - 400 053
Phone : +91 83569 74612
Email : globalmovie@gmail.com
Website : www.globalmovie.in
Printed Published & Owned by
Seema Pimpley

Seema Pimpley
Editor & Publisher



I Signed Up Movie As A Actor, Not As A Star

Hrithik Roshan

Facing life as fighters Hrithik Roshan and Deepika Padukone talk about their experience working in Bollywood's first aerial action movie 1 / 2 Fighter, starring Anil Kapoor, Hrithik Roshan and Deepika Padukone, directed by Siddharth Anand and produced by Viacom18 Studios and Marflix Pictures, is the first in a planned aerial action franchise. Hrithik and Deepika discuss the challenges of portraying their respective characters. Hrithik Roshan I felt inspired when I read the script of Fighter. When Sid came to me seven years ago, I saw myself as the protagonist very easily. I love the kind of films he makes. I was a little hesitant because it is a very different film and bigger than the larger films I have done. Also, he was bringing in a new element of reality into this blockbuster structure. My character Patty is not like Kabir, not like Krissh, not a 'front-foot', larger-than-life hero. So I had to shift gears and say, 'Okay, I'm the actor, I signed up as an actor, not as a star.' I had to go back to my roots and be an actor — iss film main ek rang hai bus. Sid is the painter who has made the film. We believe an actor has to be at the disposal of the director, to be used at his discretion. Someone like me, who never gives in easily, was convinced that this is a genre which the Indian cinema has never tried before. It's a very difficult film on the Air Force and the life of a pilot. We just saw the film and I feel we've hit the sweet spot with it. Also Read - Kiddie Bodybuilders Advertisement Deepika Padukone There was no pressure at all. In fact, when we were filming Fighter, Jawan and Pathan had already been released. I don't think you make a film with the end result in mind. I think what you do is, you choose your film with a purpose — you want it to have an impact, you want to tell an amazing story. Also, you work hard and with honesty, and everything falls in place. Yes it has been made with honesty and when you do that, the results are there for everyone to see. Also Read - Words Of Wisdom From Uniformed Women Warriors On the 'fighter' spirit Hrithik Roshan: I have seen people with a fighting spirit all around me. My dad's and my grandfather's lives have been full of the fighting spirit. Their stories are inspiring, they had nothing and yet they went after their dreams and achieved them. Deepika Padukone I'm surrounded by fighters. Somewhere I'm a fighter myself — to begin navigating a city like Mumbai when I was just a sixteen-year-old girl, starting my career as a model and then getting into the Indian film industry, where you don't know anyone. I started from scratch and worked my way up. I learned from my mistakes, failures and got up, and because of this strength I'm sitting here today. Also Read - Live Entertainment Biz Booming In India On a 'Fighter Phase' in real life Hrithik Roshan: I experienced that many times in my career. I believe that we all face fighter moments every day. Problems arise on a daily basis. My idea is simply to enjoy my work as an actor every day, and when I start enjoying it as a fighter, then it becomes a game; and then going on from there to the level of winning a fight, you become better at the game. Every film takes the fight to a different and more difficult level. If you have that ability to navigate that fighter phase, you will enjoy it. I feel grateful for the opportunities. I won't talk about the physical and mental fight we had to go through while making this film, but I'm happy to get the opportunity to overcome the problematic phases. It feels good. Also Read - A walk to remember Deepika Padukone: We all face different phases and unfavourable moments. If I had to pick one, it would be mental illness. Every day I had to work on that However, it changed me, it was a defining moment in my life. On being an actor, and stardom. Hrithik Roshan: I'm in a constant tug-of-war between being an actor and a star. Acting brings me joy, and I aspire to improve every day by immersing myself in characters. While stardom is a gift, true empowerment comes from delivering excellent performances. Stardom can be a burden, but I'm learning to turn it into gratitude and simply say 'Thank You.'

'Kabir or Pathaan'; Siddharth Anand reveals if his aerial actioner can match Pathaan numbers

With more than Rs 1,000 cr global box office collection of Pathaan, the expectations with Siddharth Anand to deliver another blockbuster with Fighter is sky high.

The world of Fighter might be larger than life and extravagant, Hrithik Roshan says, but there is a world of a difference between his latest collaboration with Siddharth Anand and the filmmaker's past work, especially War and Shah Rukh Khan starrer Pathaan. Hrithik, who plays an Air Force pilot in the aerial actioner, says he took time to take up the character of Patty.

Fighter stars Hrithik, Deepika Padukone, Anil Kapoor among others as Air Force pilots. The look and feel of the film–and also of Hrithik's Patty–might be like a big screen spectacle that Siddharth is known to mount, but the actor says with the film, even he is breaking his patterns and trying something new.

"It took time for me to be convinced about Patty. He is not larger than life, the film is larger than life. Up until then I was doing characters with a larger-than-life emotional arc, but I understood that what Sid was trying to achieve, he was breaking his own mould and constructing a hero, by taking aspects of me as a person, putting them together and saying. 'Hey, this is what I want from you and here is my character, who is not larger than life.' He is not Kabir or Pathaan, he is just a guy," Hrithik said in an interview.

Fighter is the third collaboration between him and Siddharth after War and Bang Bang. The film is also the second directorial release in a year for Siddharth after Pathaan. The Shah Rukh starrer spy actioner broke all box office records when it arrived on January 25, the same date Fighter is opening worldwide.With more than Rs 1,000 cr global box office collection, naturally the expectations with Siddharth to deliver another blockbuster with Fighter is sky high, but the filmmaker said it is impossible to predict the business of a film, even if the makers are confident it will win the audience.

"No filmmaker can predict the level of success or figures their films can achieve. You can dream, but not plan for it. It is a lot of love, luck and effort obviously. We were all taken by surprise with Pathaan numbers. The audience just opened their hearts with the film. Now we are at the cusp of something very special again.

"We are just hoping, not for the numbers, but that we get a lot of love and recognition. We have made a desi film. It is stylised, but very rooted. This is a proper Hindi film, which speaks to the lowest common denominator. There is something for everyone in Fighter. We are hoping for love, numbers will follow," he added.

More than 'Mogambo': The many shades of Amrish Puri

Amrish Puri Death Anniversary 2024: On this day, let's see half-a-dozen of the actor's lesser-known, but no less spectacular roles Amrish Puri Death Anniversary 2024: Most of his Bollywood career comprises a set repertoire - the bald, unconscionable don, the brutal policeman, the lecherous, covetous zamindar, or the ruthless politician. But Amrish Puri always brought different shades to their rendition, and with his booming baritone, smouldering gaze, and imposing presence, he could stand his ground against stalwarts like Dilip Kumar, Raj Kumar and Amitabh Bachchan. But Amrish Puri (1990-2005), whose 19th death anniversary is today was always more than what he seemed. For starters, though he gave the impression of a towering stature, he was not really that tall - standing just 1.75 metres, or 5 feet 10 inches (for the record, Dev Anand was roughly 1.79 metres tall, Dilip Kumar was 1.78m, while Amitabh Bachchan is 1.88m tall). And then, despite two elder brothers being established actors -- the avuncular Chaman Puri and the versatile Madan Puri as well they being first cousins to late singing superstar K.L. Saigal, he was a very late entrant to Bollywood -- with his first appearance coming only in 1970, as a small-time hoodlum in 'Prem Pujari', with just one key dialogue, Ham Christian hai", as he balks at committing a particular crime. Success came even later. In fact, Puri, who held a full-time job in the Employees' State Insurance Corporation after his initial foray into films came a cropper, spent more time carving a niche on stage, especially under the redoubtable Satyadev Dubey. He even won the Sangeet Natak Akademi award in 1979, much before he emerged as a recognisable face in Bollywood.

However, during the 1970s, he was a regular feature in the parallel/alternate cinema, being seen in classics of the genre like "Shantata! Court Chalu Aahe (Silence! The Court Is in Session)", the 1971 Marathi film version of Vijay Tendulkar's play; Shyam Bengal's "Nishant" (1975), where he plays the influential and manipulative village jagirdar; Benegal's "Manthan" (1976), where he is the wily and exploitative businessman Mishraji; and "Bhumika" (1977), where he plays rich businessman Kale, who offers the heroine (Smita Patil) a pampered - but restrictive - lifestyle.

Though he had started getting some meatier roles in Bollywood -- the man reading a horror novel in the train in the cult horror flick "Jaani Dushman" (1979), "Chann Pardesi" (Punjabi), "Qurbaani" (all 1980), "Vidhaata" (1982), where he held his own against a star cast comprising Dilip Kumar, Sanjay Dutt, Shammi Kapoor, Sanjeev Kumar, Madan Puri and Suresh Oberoi -- his rise to fame came due to Hollywood.

As the sinister Thugee high priest Mola Ram in Steven Spielberg's "Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom" (1984), Amrish Puri proved he could hold his own with the who's who of Hollywood too. It also made him aware how a shiny bald pate added to his screen looks. However, he would occasionally don outlandish wigs like as megalomaniac super-villain 'Mogambo' in "Mr India" (1987) - which cemented his reputation as a Bollywood villain to look out for, and had a full head of hair in many other outings.

The rest of his Bollywood career is too well known to recount - the crooked, scheming lawyer in "Meri Jung" (1985) and then in "Damini"

(1993), the rapacious landlord in "Waaris" (1988), the ruthless police inspector in "Dayavan" (1988) and "Batwara" (1989), over-the-top villains in "Tridev" (1989) and "Saudagar" (1991), the kind-hearted patriarch in "Ghatak" (1996) and "Virasat" (1997), and the NRI father who sticks to Indian traditions in "Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge" (1995) and "Pardes" (1997) - among others.

On Amrish Puri's death anniversary, let's see half-a-dozen of Amrish Puri's lesser-known, but no less spectacular roles:

'Hulchul' (1971) - There have been few films in Bollywood with such an innovative comedy-thriller by O.P. Ralhan, where the hero (Ralhan himself) and his girlfriend (Helen) hear a Mahesh Jetley plotting with his paramour to bump off his wife. They dig in deeper and uncover three Mahesh Jetleys (Prem Chopra, Madan Puri, Kabir Bedi), all in unhappy marriages.

Our hero-heroine's plot to find the guilty one lands them in hot water and the matter reaches the court. Here, it is the Public Prosecutor (Puri) who solves the convoluted problem.

'Vijeta' (1982) - This film dealing with adapting to a career in the Indian armed forces, the IAF in this case, and the discipline and commitment the training demands is possibly one of the best war films to come out of Bollywood.

Puri was not playing an IAF officer for the first time, having donned the uniform in 'Hindustan Ki Kasam' (1973), but in his role as Chief Instructor, Group Captain Varghese, he proved a natural. And then as teacher of the protagonist - who has fallen for his daughter - he would set the template for this particular situation.

'Tamas' (1986) - Based on Bhisham Sahni's 1974 Hindi novel dealing with the breakdown of human relations and the unconscionable violence that the Partition brought, this Govind Nihalani TV film, which evoked chills among those who had experienced the time, has Puri as elderly Sikh community leader Teja Singh in a communal-violence stricken town.

Though he only comes onscreen midway, the image of him majestically striding into the gurdwara and among the congregation to the solemn strains of shabad 'De Shiva Var Mohe', paying obeisance to the Guru Granth Sahab, and then picking up a sword, delivering an impassioned address to the assembly on how they should gird up for the situation, will forever remain etched in the minds of the viewers.

As he finishes, the shabad 'Jo Lare Din Ke Het' underscores his message. 'Bharat Ek Khoj' (1988-89) - This Shyam Benegal TV series is an insightful, and panoramic view of centuries of Indian history and culture and has appearances by many leading Bollywood actors, such as Naseeruddin Shah, Shabana Azmi, Kulbhushan Kharbanda, and Irrfan, who was still to achieve prowess then.

Puri appears as Hasan Raza Khan, an old, capable and loyal state functionary of the Nawabs of Bengal, in episode No. 39 "Company Bahadur", where he has to negotiate a tightrope between the demands of the British and the cupidity of his own compatriots. That shot of him calling his fiercest enemy an "ahmaq" with his usual ferocity is priceless.

'Haatim Tai' (1990) - It is very difficult to leave a mark in a fantasy film where the magic and enchantments, via special effects, will entrance the viewer more, but Puri does this in the second retelling of the legendary Arabian Prince, who was renowned for his generosity and altruism. As the Prince quests for answers to seven questions to resolve the tangled lives of his friends as well as his own, Puri as the magician Kamlaq, whose catchphrase is "Jinn Jinn Jinn du Jinn Daara", emerges as the final obstacle to a happy ending.

'Suraj Ka Satvan Ghoda' (1992) - Up to his usual lechery and crooked ways, Puri, as Maheshar Dalal in this Shyam Benegal-helmed story of the narrator's life and loves, nails the rhythms of small-town/mofussil life perfectly. And his trademark dialogue to women -- how he can sell even the 'kajal' from their eyes -- does more to reveal his nature and intentions than anything else could.

After 12th fail, Vikrant Massey to feature in Ekta Kapoor's political thriller based on true story

Actor Vikrant Massey is in the news these days for his recently released film 12th Fail. Vikrant, who has always been a phenomenal actor, has got the deserved appreciation for his earnest performance in this film. Meanwhile, after 12th Fail,

12th Fail actor Vikrant Massey is currently enjoying the success of his film. Meanwhile, he will soon be seen in Ekta Kapoor's film.

the actor has got a big project in his hands. Yes, Vikrant Massey is soon going to work with famous filmmaker Ekta Kapoor. Vikrant Massey is going to be seen in Ekta's political thriller film.

Vikrant Massey in Ekta's political thriller

According to the report published in Pinkvilla, Vikrant is now going to be seen in Ekta Kapoor's political thriller film. This film will be based on a true incident. The title of this film has not been revealed yet however, Ranjan Chandel has been roped to direct the film. As of now, its official announcement is yet to be made.

12th Fail is at number 1 in IMDb India list

Vikrant Massey is enjoying the success of his film 12th Fail these days. His film has been rated at number 1 in the list of IMDb India. Even though the film was made on a budget of Rs 20 crore, the film has crossed the figure of more than Rs 60 crore at the box office.

Talking about the story of the film 12th Fail, it is the biopic of IPS officer Manoj Sharma. In this film, the story of his struggle is shown, how a 12th failed boy becomes an IPS with the desire to do something for his family and the country. This film was released in theaters on October 27, 2025. The film has been directed by Vidhu Vinod Chopra. After being released in theaters. the film was released on the OTT platform Disney+Hostar on December 29, 2023.

Nawazuddin Siddiqui Says Bollywood Actors Earn Approximately Rs 10 Crore For Every Film, Declares He Doesn't Negotiate

Nawazuddin Siddiqui also answered if he takes up projects just with the sole intention of making money.

Bollywood actor Nawazuddin Siddiqui has opened up about how much Bollywood actors get paid for every film. Nawazuddin gave a rough idea of the amount and said that he does not negotiate with the makers of the film to increase the remuneration.

On Unfiltered by Samdish, the host asked Nawazuddin, "How much money do the actors make, approximately?" The actor said, "They earn a lot." When the host asked, "10 crore or more than that?" Nawauddin said, "Uske aas paas. (Somewhere around that.)"

When asked if he negotiates with them, the actor replied, "I don't negotiate a lot. The industry gives you how much you deserve. If you negotiate, they will ask you 'do you deserve so much?'"Nawazuddin said that he does few films just with the intention of making money so he can do some films without charging any money. He said, "I even tell (the makers) that I am doing this for money so that I can do films like Manto for free." The Sacred Games had previously revealed that he has stopped doing smaller roles in films. Nawazuddin had said that even if he is offered Rs 25 crore, he would not do a small role. He told Bombay Times, "In my career in this industry, I have worked in many films where I did small roles. And I am done with that. Ab toh aap mujhe 25 crore bhi denge toh bhi main chhota role nahi karunga (Now even if you offer me Rs 25 crore, I won't do a small role).

On the work front, Nawazuddin will next be seen in the film Section 108. The upcoming film also stars Arbaaz Khan and Regina Cassandra.

Deepika Padukone

on doing blockbusters like Fighter and smaller films like Piku: "I'm always open

Fighter arrived in theatres today. The Siddharth Anand directorial starring Hrithik Roshan, Deepika Padukone, Anil Kapoor and more in an aerial actioner.

In a press interaction, Deepika opened up about working on big-budget films like Fighter and smaller-budget films like Piku and Chhapaak. She said, "I am more than happy to do that, and I've demonstrated by doing that pre-pandemic. In fact, even post-pandemic, Gehraiyaan was one of them. So, I'm always open."

She added, "I've always been that actor. Way before I've done films like–they didn't do well so we don't remember them–Finding Fanny, Chhapaak, Khelein Hum Jee Jaan Sey, there are a lot of these movies. So, as an actor, I'm most excited about telling stories, whether it happens to be a Rs 500 crore budget film or a Rs 50 crore; I've never looked at that. I am interested in telling a story."

Fighter also features Karan Singh Grover, Akshay Oberoi and Shanjeeda Sheikh in pivotal roles.

Akshay Oberoi: Having access to best pilots was a privilege

Akshay, who plays squadron leader in Fighter, on learning protocols from pilots at a specially organised camp in Tezpur Air Force Station When director Siddharth Anand conceptualised Fighter, he wanted to ensure that the principal cast was adequately prepared before they stepped into the world of the aerial action thriller. Since the Hrithik Roshan, Deepika Padukone and Anil Kapoor-starrer is centred on a few Indian Air Force (IAF) pilots, the director shot a portion of the film at the Tezpur Air Force Station in Assam, thus lending it authenticity. Not only that, in late 2022, the production team also organised a special camp with the real-life pilots at the air force base that would aid the actors in their prep for the movie. Akshay Oberoi, who plays a squadron leader in the recent release, says the few days spent with some of India's finest pilots gave him enough material to enhance his character of Basheer Khan aka Bash. Though it wasn't a formal training camp, the sessions allowed the actors to delve into different aspects of the profession. "I was curious and wanted to be well-prepared with regard to my character. Having access to some of India's best pilots was an incredible privilege, and I made sure not to let that opportunity go to waste. We asked them about their manner of speaking, the significance of different badges on their uniforms, and protocols. All [this knowledge] has an emotional impact, and it is necessary to learn the psyche of the person you play," says the actor

Actors we miss
Namrata Shirodkar:
A journey through grace and talent

Actors we miss: Namrata Shirodkar, the epitome of elegance and brilliance, has carved a niche for herself in the world of entertainment. Shirodkar's career spanned decades and is a fascinating tale of achievement and strength Actors we miss: **Namrata Shirodkar,** the epitome of elegance and brilliance, has carved a niche for herself in the world of entertainment. Shirodkar's career spanned decades and is a fascinating tale of achievement and strength. Today, Namrata Shirodkar's birthday in 2024, revisiting her journey and contribution to Indian cinema. Namrata Shirodkar, born on January 22, 1972, in Mumbai, India, began her career as a model before moving into the film industry. Her dynamic screen presence and flexibility rapidly drew attention, and she made her Hindi cinema debut with 'Jab Pyaar Kisise Hota Hai' in 1998 along with Salman Khan and Twinkle Khanna. Shirodkar's breakthrough came with her spectacular performance in the highly praised film **'Vaastav: The Reality' (1999),** in which she played Sonia "Sonu" Shivalkhar, Raghu's wife. Her ability to fluidly switch between many characters demonstrated her acting talent.

Beyond her acting career, Namrata Shirodkar was named Femina Miss India in 1993, cementing her place in the spotlight. Her charming demeanour and dedication to her art have earned her acclaim in the industry. Shirodkar took a hiatus in 2005 after marrying prominent Telugu actor **Mahesh Babu.** Despite stepping away from the spotlight, she remained a powerful presence, gracefully juggling her personal and business obligations. As an advocate for social causes, Shirodkar has been actively involved in philanthropy. Shirodkar now lives in Hyderabad with her husband. The couple has two children, a son and a daughter.

Namrata Shirodkar's path displays her everlasting determination and adaptability. She continues to encourage aspiring talent, having been a beauty queen and making an everlasting impression in the film business. Namrata Shirodkar's narrative is one of perseverance, skill, and celebration of pursuing one's dreams.

It's tough not to feel nostalgic when we look back on Namrata Shirodkar's cinematic career. Each film becomes a chapter in the book of her successful career, leaving an unforgettable impact. In the fast-paced world of entertainment, where stars frequently disappear as swiftly as they emerge, Namrata is an example of skill, talent, and ageless appeal.

'Even the biggest failure teaches you'

'At least you know what not to do in the future. Even that failure becomes a success in the larger scheme of things.'

Taapsee Pannu likes the place she's in currently.

"Dunki gave me a chance to work with Shah Rukh Khan and Raj Kumar Hirani. It was an experience to cherish. Each day I wanted to observe and absorb the maximum,"

"I was aware I may not get this kind of opportunity again in my life. I realised what makes Shah Rukh Khan such a superstar is not just his cinematic personality, but also the kind of person he is in real life."

For once, Taapsee did not have to worry about the marketing of the film.

"This is why during the last two years, I had so much time and mind-space to relax and not worry about how to push my film. I knew I was riding on the safest vehicle in Dunki. I could sit on the backseat and not have to worry about the intentions and efforts that were being put into this project.

"I really enjoyed relaxing and letting people, who know their job, do the marketing," she adds.

The past year has been a time of change in her career and perspective.

"I think I've changed a lot during the last one year. My biggest takeaway was that there is no categorical success or failure in life. It's all about how one perceives every incident in one's life.

"Even the biggest failure has a lot to teach you. At least you know what not to do in the future. Even that failure becomes a success in the larger scheme of things. So this kind of shift in perception has helped me understand the dynamics of success and failure better. Which is why I see it as a year of wholesome growth. I have stopped judging success and failure in ultimate terms," she says.

Taapsee also produced a lovely film Dhak Dhak in 2023, which, sadly, went unnoticed on the big screen.

"The marketing of Dhak Dhak was not in my hands. As a producer, I was advised to make good content and I did my best.

"What happened later was in the hands of the studio (Viacom 18). They are the best people to answer why Dhak Dhak was so poorly marketed. When it was released on OTT on Netflix, I was concerned as their big film The Archies was to release the next day. I thought Dhak Dhak was doomed. To my surprise, we started trending at Number 1 almost immediately."

Rishi was never a friend to his children'

Delivering on his commitment to bring fresh pairings this season, Karan Johar welcomed yesteryear divas Zeenat Aman and Neetu Kapoor to Koffee With Karan.

With coffee cups in their hands and broad smiles on their faces, both actresses discussed everything from kids to grandkids, and how the film industry used to function back in the day.

Mohnish Singh brings the major highlights.

The Final Days

Revisiting the final days of her late husband Rishi Kapoor in New York where he was receiving treatment for cancer, Neetu Kapoor said, 'So, Karan, for me, I don't like to remember the sad part. I like to remember the good part of our relationship and of our time in New York. So New York was really sad but we had the best year. I had the best year of my life.'

The actress also revealed how Rishi would not openly show his affection, especially towards her and their children, Riddhima Kapoor Sahni and Ranbir Kapoor but that changed during his final days.

'Chintuji (Rishi Kapoor) is a very loving person. He had a lot of love in him. But he never really showed his love. He always kept his distance and bullied people, not showing his love. Especially with me and my children, he was like a big thing. Respect. And with that, he lost out on a lot with his children. He was never a friend to them.'

'But that year, he opened up. He showed love, went towards me also. He was so lovely. We had the best time.'

The Instagram Debut

Zeenat Aman's Instagram debut last year made headlines. KJo praised the actress for serving nostalgia with her pictures on the platform and writing beautiful captions.

Zeenat says how she discovered the platform: 'It wasn't me, it was my kids. It was my younger son and his partner.'

'I think Instagram is such a wonderful platform if used correctly. It gives you a voice, provides a space to express yourself authentically, not dictated by a third or fourth-person's definition of you. I was overwhelmed with the love and affection, completely overwhelmed.'

No Partying

Karan Johar shared an interesting anecdote from the sets of Yash Chopra's 1976 film Kabhi Kabhie, starring Amitabh Bachchan, Rishi Kapoor, Neetu Kapoor, and Shashi Kapoor, among others.

Remembering her time on the sets of the film, Neetu said, 'We had a fabulous time, especially with Yashji. We would party whole night, play dumb charades, and all. That was like one picnic.'

'But you know, I had Rishi Kapoor as my boyfriend. So, I never 'partied partied' because he was always like, "Don't do this. Don't do that. Come home." So I never saw the wild side of partying those days. I was committed and had a very strict mother and a very strict boyfriend, so I was always torn between them.'

Sharing her story, Zeenat Aman says, 'For me, I had a very strict mother. Shooting, home, in bed, in time. Early morning, knock on the door, up and out. I really did not party at all for seven-eight years straight. My life was studio-home, studio-home, and studio-home. But when the floodgates burst, they really did.'

'Do you mean the men that entered your life?' KJo asks.
'No comments,' she says with a laugh.

Quitting Career

KJo asked Neetu Kapoor about her decision of saying goodbye to films at a very young age.

The actress said she had already worked enough before she decided to quit her acting career.

'Karan, you see, I started working at a very young age. I was like five,' she said. 'And when I did Do Kaliyan, I was so loved by everyone. Everybody was going crazy.

'I had already seen fame at a very young age. After that, working became a job for me. It was nothing that I looked forward to. It was just that I had to go for a shoot. From age 5 to 21, I really worked a lot. I did around 70-80 movies in that period.'

Friendship With Rekha

During the course of the episode, KJo brings up friendships in Bollywood, and asks the actresses if reports of their thick friendship with their contemporary Rekha were true or not.

'I have worked with Rekha on some films, but I think Neetu at the time was much closer to her than I was,' Zeenat says.

'I have not really done any work with Rekha,' Neetu clarifies.

When KJo asked her how she built such a great friendship with Rekha, Neetu says, 'I really don't know how it started. She was just a very friendly person. A very sweet and warm person. She would just drop by without informing me. She was one of those girls, and I was also a very friendly girl and liked that she was very funny. She used to do a lot of mimicry.'

The Bond With Raha

Neetu spoke fondly about her year-old granddaughter Raha.

'At my home, the baby is growing. I keep instructing the help to tell her to say papa. But Soni (Razdan, daughter-in-law of Alia Bhatt's mother) tells her to say Mumma.'

To this, KJo laughingly adds, 'You are having this mini battle.'

Continuing with her story, Neetu says, 'So, I went the other day to the house and Alia says, "Oh, by the way, she said Mumma." So, I said, "She didn't say Mumma but she said mum-mum. So, don't be so happy." She laughed and added that "She is saying Dada and not Nana".'

Neetu says she finds Raha's name very appropriate as whenever she sees her, she feels calm.

"I feel this name just suits her. I feel rahat (calmness) when I see her. She has got such a beautiful, lovely, happy face," she says.

The Perfect Pick

During the Rapid Fire round, Karan asks Zeenat to choose an actress from the current generation who she believes would be perfect to play her iconic character of Rupa in a hypothetical sequel to her film, Satyam Shivam Sundaram.

Without blinking an eye, Babusha -- as her mum called her -- names Deepika Padukone.

Karan then asks her about her ideal pick for the actress who could best portray her in a potential biopic.

EMF's Wedding "Confluence -2023" event Concludes with Big Success.

Bollywood music creates a different atmosphere in this wedding conference event.

Jaipur: The business of the wedding industry in India is expanding on a very large scale. In the first half of the year 2023, a business of Rs. 13 Lakh crore was done and there is a possibility of a business of Rs 13 lakh crore in the second half. One crore weddings took place in India in about one year. India is the second-largest player in the world's wedding industry & this year, there is a possibility of a business of Rs. 26 lakh crores in this industry. In view of chances of this growth, there is a huge need for new wedding planners in India. In order to explore these possibilities, The Association of East Event Managers Fraternity-EMF organized a platform for Wedding Dialogue in newly opened luxury resort Ananta Spa & Resorts, Jaipur - Rajasthan from 1st to 3rd July 2023. In the first week of July, IMF President Mr. Geetesh Agarwal and his team named the event as Confluence 2023, Dare-Dream-Deliver. Established wedding planners in India were invited to this platform and new wedding planners also got a chance to appear on this occasion and share their experience with the latest wedding planner for the future of this sector in Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, and Hyderabad. People from other states also participated here to discuss how much the wedding industry has grown in the last 30 years and the business growth of the wedding industry in the coming 10 years.

One of the sessions held in the second half of the function on the first day was themed The Seduction of Destination Wedding, in which the Modular Speaker was handled by Rajnish Rathi, Editor of Wedding Magazine, and veteran of the Indian wedding industry Mr. Vijay Arora Director of Touch Group. Mr. Arora was invited onto the stage, in which a showreel presentation of all the companies of Touchwood Group was shown on a projector.

All the wedding planners shared their experiences in front of the new wedding planners. Mr. Vijay Arora said that everyone has big dreams & similarly I also have big dreams and if I think of life then I sell Larger Than Life Dream to the client. It is my own experience that we go to meet the client for our presentation, discuss and plan with them about such a big project, they feel that they cannot afford their wedding idea but it is not so. He said One has to work with an aim to do big and earn big.

Another stalwart of the industry, Dr. Jaydeep Mehta the owner of the wedding company living in Ahmedabad was also called on the stage in the program to answer questions about his experience and his journey in the wedding industry. The line "KAHIN AASMAN SE DOOR NIKAL JAAYEN", was highlighted by the veteran anchor of the wedding industry, Geetika Ganju. Dr. Jaydeep Mehta said dream and passion is sold in this industry and Money is earned by creating magic. Dr. Jaydeep Mehta has earned a big name in international weddings by accepting challenges and is known in India and abroad for wedding events. Dr. Jaydeep Mehta said that there are considerable challenges in the destination wedding in this industry. Telangana Government Promotes Destination Wedding for the World and Indian Government also promises for Destination Wedding Sector. To create more business, the India Government has opened a Very Nice Wedding Destination, an International Luxury Hotel, and a Budget Sightseeing in Vietnam. Modi government has promised to take more steps to promote Wedding Hotels in Rajasthan to increase business and spring wedding events can be held in India.

Then Mr. Samit Garg, the director of a company named E – -Factor Experience Ltd. and also the President of the Event Entertainment Management Association was invited on the stage by Model Geetika. Mr. Samit shared his experience in the event industry and his initial days. He said that I made a big start by starting the canvas of wedding. I started with Pushkar fair which became an identity & whenever someone asked me what I do, I used to reply "I do Pushkar". I work only on that good idea and once that idea is successful, it makes a brand-name Mr. Samit Garg also said about the line "Dare - Dream – Deliver" that I successfully delivered "Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar The Grand Musical event" with Delhi Government and this was my dare to deliver in the name of "The Babasaheb The Grand Musical Event". This musical live stage program was very much liked by the audience of Delhi and also in other states of India. Further, Mr. Samit said that if I do 20 events, I can give my best to only two events and only some events are memorable.

Finally, in 'Confluence- 2023', the names of best event players of the wedding industry are Rituraj Khanna (director of Q Events), Vijay Arora (director of Touchwood group, Rajnish Rathi (Owner of Wedding affair magazine), Parthip Thyagarajan (director of weddingsutra.com), Dr. Jaydeep Mehta (director of True Events Wedding Vows), N. Dakshina Murthi, famous event director Mahavir Sharma of Jaipur event industry, Maharaj Lakshya Singh Mewar of Udaipur became the chief guest and main speaker in this program besides Siddharth Chaturvedi, Anshul Bhargava of Vanam, Rajesh Gupta of lensocart event, Vijay Bokadia from Moksh event, Amit Singh of event daddy, Rajeev Kapoor, General Manager Fairmont Hotel Jaipur, Wedding Gurus Director Chand Rana, Ram Bherwani from Bombay, Mapsor and Experimental Wedding Director Pritesh Sharma.

Playback singer Armaan Malik and Drums player Darpan Dua from Mumbai performed in the program on both the days and created magic in this program by their music. The veterans of the wedding industry put together their own experiences in the program of EMF "Conflunece-23" in such a way that the new wedding planners are excited about the upcoming wedding technology, wedding trends, new technology points in wedding business.

Senior & veteran wedding planners were very excited to present their points in this program. The entire wedding industry gained knowledge from various types of their experiences. EMF President Mr. Ritesh Agarwal also
indicated that he will come up with next season EMF ''Confluence -24'' with great excitement after his overall
confidence of the first successful season at Ananta Resort, Jaipur – Rajasthan. The main anchor of this function who is modelling from Mumbai and is now pursuing her name in the business of anchoring, whose name is Aakriti Anand Singh, she mesmerized people with her work in this program, and everyone liked her work.

Report By - Krishna Kumar.

'Once in a blue moon you get a lottery like Animal'

It has never happened that all Top 5 songs on Spotify are from one film. On the Ormax list, the Top 9 are from Animal.'

'The music is good, sure. But everything has taken off with Animal the film.'

"Either the singer gets into a controversy and his reach increases so much that people want to hear a song for reasons other than his music. If a good singer dies, people start listening. So some vehicle is needed to make the music big," Bhushan Kumar, chairman and managing director, T-Series, tells.

How is T-Series placed in all its businesses?

We always started everything with my father's name and vision.

The music company I took over (in 1998) was doing very well.
My father also wanted to be a big film producer. He made Aashiqui, Dil Hai Ki Maanta Nahin, among other films. Some worked, some didn't. (But) all were musically successful.

My target was to make my father's company a film production company like YRF (Yashraj Films) and others.

Then we were Asia's number one music label, today we maintain that.

In the last six-seven years we started making films full-time.

I am very happy with the numbers we have got for Animal.

Six years back, when I used to make films (Baby, Airlift), people used to say arrey, yeh to music label hai, paisa laga rahi

Now, I am happy when people say T-Series is a studio. We are doing premium films: Bhool Bhulaiya 3, Spirit, Animal Park, Border, Aashiqui 3, among others.

We are fulfilling my father's vision and heading towards becoming the leading studio for films, apart from music.

What is T-Series? A studio, a music label, or a content company?

T-Series is an entertainment company. We entertain through films, through music. There is no other target. Many people say launch an app.

In 2021, you told me you were thinking of launching one.

Nahi nahi (no, no). Ghoda ghaas se dosti karega to khaayega kya? (if the horse befriends the grass, what will it eat?) We provide the ghaas (grass).

If we become the ghoda (horse) it becomes problematic. Many people who have done this have lost it. You can't give me a single successful name for that.

But entertainment companies today are at another scale. The top four are at Rs 14,000 crore (Rs 140 billion) and above. What is your ambition when you say you are an entertainment firm?

I don't work on numbers. Today you can name so many companies with net worth of Rs 50,000 crore (Rs 500 billion), but profit is Rs 50 crore (Rs 500 million).

So many have Rs 100,000 crore (Rs 1 trillion) turnover but they are in debt. We are a very healthy and profitable company.

If I take my profitability and go to the market, I can raise a lot of money. But I don't want that.

You have always been against this, why?

I don't need it. For the work I need to do, I have everything.

And you also have control. Is that very important?

Control is very important. This is a personalised business. That is why whoever doesn't have knowledge of music doesn't run a label like my father did or I do.

Today also all the songs in my company, good or bad, I approve of.

You have always laid great emphasis on this. How do you keep your music sense relevant?

As and when we make music and it becomes popular, it keeps changing. Between the last time we met and now, things have changed. You have to tune your ears.

How?

It is not something that you get with your ear sense and it works.

In addition to that, you need a vehicle to take that music to another level.

Animal's music is a big hit for us. It is on the Spotify Top 5 list.

It has never happened that all the Top 5 songs on Spotify are from one film. On the Ormax list, the Top 9 are from Animal.

This is thanks to the film. The music is good, sure. But everything has taken off with a vehicle called Animal, the film.

Very often there might be very good music, but if it doesn't have a vehicle, it gets left behind.

We make non-film music, if it doesn't get a vehicle, it doesn't go viral, doesn't go on a reel that entertains people or makes them laugh, then it can't be popular.

Earlier the vehicle was YouTube. Now the best vehicle I am experiencing is that either the singer gets into a controversy and his reach increases so much that people want to hear a song for reasons other than his music. If a good singer dies, people start listening. So some vehicle is needed to make the music big.

But discoverability has always been a big thing.

Earlier YouTube was the best platform. It would also promote it and a good song would take off.

Of the 100 songs we would put, 65 to 70 songs would take off and reach everywhere on other streaming sites.

Now we search for that vehicle. Only one out of 10 songs becomes a hit in non-film.

That too only if it becomes very viral or after two-three months of promoting it continuously.

If you are lucky, one reel will become viral and hit 100 million streams. That is when our song becomes popular.

The second thing is the film. I am making so many films and in all of them music plays a very important role. Therefore, we attach music to film.

What are the two or three things you keep an eye on regularly?

What is the music consumption on Apple, Spotify, YouTube, Saavn, and on all streaming platforms.

I keep an eye on that every day. What is working for others, which are the good songs that are doing well, and which are the not-so-good songs that are doing well.

I do this every day with my team with a report. If a good song works, there is no stress, it is bound to run. And if it has a good vehicle, like Shershah, where the film and music both worked.

Many songs that have a vehicle are bad. I judge these things every day.

The second thing I keep an eye out for is budgets. We are making so many films, so I am very strict on not going over budget. The margins are so low, 10 to 15 per cent.

Once in a blue moon you get a lottery where you could get 100 per cent. That may be possible with Animal.

‘Katrina was very much against doing a Tamil version’

‘It would have made (Producer) Ramesh Taurani very happy if I had taken two Bombay stars, but the reason why I kept mentally rejecting the regular sort of casting was to discover this excitement, you know, can I crack it?’

Sriram Raghavan’s office is like his movies.

It has a distinct retro element, with original film posters of old films like Jugnu (1947), Saraswatichandra (1968) and Kaajal (1965), taking up a chunk of a wall.

The wall also has pictures of cinema halls of Pune, the city where Sriram grew up, from a bygone era.

“This is Westand. This (picture) is from the 1950s but I have been to this hall and have so many memories,” “That’s the film institute from 1932. Now if you see this area, you will not recognise it.”

As you enter his office, the Godfather stares at you steadily from a bookshelf.

A bobblehead of Alfred Hitchcock stands on his big, cluttered desk, almost nodding in acknowledgment to Sriram’s brilliant thrillers.

Especially his latest one, Merry Christmas.

The film, starring Katrina Kaif and Vijay Sethupathi, is getting rave reviews, much like his previous films, Andhudhan, Badlapur, Johnny Gadaar and Ek Hasina Thi.

Sriram likes his t-shirts to have a say too -- he wore the classic thriller Madhumati at the **premiere of Merry Christmas** -- and today, he is wearing a picture of French film-maker Eric Roma.

“He’s a student of Hitchcock. He’s written a book on Hitchcock, but his films are just like people talking,” Sriram explains.

“They are not easy films to watch because if you’re looking for an action plot, you won’t find it. But his films give you a very happy feeling at the end of it. In fact, I have thanked him in Merry Christmas because I have never done a movie like this where two people are talking a lot till the thing happens. He gave me the inspiration to do it.”

you had said that you wanted to make a war film next. Why hasn't that happened yet?

After Andhadhun, we started work on Ekkis. We did all the research, meeting people, the officers... It's a film on **Arun Khetrapal,** the Param Vir Chkra winner. We met two of his tank-mates who survived.

We were getting into the script and doing the storyboards, when the pandemic struck.

After that, it was so uncertain, there was so much protocol in terms of shooting... And that is a big film, with big crowds. There will be like 200 people on set every day. So I didn't dare get into that and then get stuck. If you begin and then get stuck, it's very bad.

When I used to narrate it to people, they would get hooked even though it had not been cast.

Who are your sounding boards?

I have got two brothers, one of them is a writer (Sridhar Raghavan).

I also sound off with my unit; they have been with me for a long time.

I have a bunch of 10-12 people who I narrate to, including actors like Vinay Pathak.

Your brother Sridhar has written films **like Pathaan, War and Tiger 3. These are full-blown commercial films, not thrillers. The two of you have such distinct tastes in cinema.**

No, he also likes this and I also like that.

You must be having a lot of scripts. What did the script of Merry Christmas have that made you choose it as your next film?

No, I don't have so many.

I just have sort of a few, like paragraphs, or a basic one line, sometimes it's up to the interval and then I don't know how it's going to take off.

I loved this story. It's a thriller, but very different from what I've done before.

There's also a hint of romance and tender obsession.

I wanted to break away from the Andhadhun zone.

We tried to co-write during Agent Vinod, but he realised my methods were so unorthodox... In that sense, I'll go with five scenes but the next day, I'll say, 'Let's change this opening.'

So he said, 'I'm going to run away from you!' (laughs)

Is this why you have never collaborated on a film?

We had collaborated a lot on television; we had done a lot of CID episodes, but not in films as yet.

But I always get his feedback (on scripts). I showed him the rough cut. I do all that.

Katrina is terrific in Merry Christmas, but what made you cast her?

The story demanded a unique pairing -- it's about two people who spend the evening and night together. I wanted something fresh in that zone.

Katrina had met me a few years back and wanted to do something different from the kind of films she was doing. I was like, definitely.

It was one of those polite conversations that you just have.

But then when Ikkis got pushed, I said, Okay, why not do that story? So I met her and said, Okay, this story is there.

She loved it and asked, Who's the guy?

At the time, I had met Saif (Ali Khan) and he had liked the story.

But when I was fleshing it out, I felt that I needed something... something else, I don't know how to describe it.

So I had to go to him and say I'm sorry, I'm not able to see you two together.

Katrina and Saif have done films together, like Race. That was mounted on a bigger scale.

I thought a fresh pairing would work better.

But it's very tough to tell an actor (no)... It was a pain but I had to do it.

Why did you pick Vijay Sethupathi?

I cast Vijay a year after this fiasco.

I had met him during a film festival, and seen some of his films.

I do watch Tamil films, at least the ones people tell me to see.

So I had seen Vikram Vedha and Super Deluxe. But when I saw 96, he was so different.

His roles in these three films are so varied, he's like Sanjeev Kumar. He can play a father, a boyfriend... he's got that kind of versatility.

Katrina and Vijay are from different schools of acting. How challenging was it to bring them on the same page?

It would have made (Producer) Ramesh Taurani very happy if I taken two Bombay stars, but the reason why I kept mentally rejecting the regular sort of casting was to discover this excitement, you know, can I crack it? So that tension is there and it will eventually help the film.

Katrina has done it. She's absolutely fine in the movie.

Vijay, if you see films like Master, he's very aggressive and macho there.

Actors can mould themselves, but the big stars largely don't do it because they don't want to change their image too much.

Of course, there are actors like Tabu, who don't care as long as there is a meaty role.

Why is the retro element so big in your films?

Because this is my childhood!

It's something I love; it's fish to water type.

Ikkis is set in 1971, so we had to create that period. A lot of it is in Pune. We have a sequence in this Westend hall, which no longer exists.

There's a bit of the yearning for what is gone.

In Andhadhun, I remember we were shooting in a house, where all those houses were beautiful, old constructions but they all get sold by the builders, who build these huge things.

Like, see what's happened to Bandra?

There are expensive, 20-storey buildings, but no place to walk.

Rajesh Khanna appearpte, Ayushmann Khurrana and Sriram Raghavan on the in a weighing machine ticket in Merry Christmas. Are you a Rajesh Khanna fan?

Yes. I had once come from Pune to Bombay without telling my parents, to watch his film Red Rose (yes, a thriller!), because movies used to come later to Pune; they would come after two weeks.
I was desperate to see that film.

I left my house at 7 am, and said I have to go for some special tuition, caught a train, went to Chitra cinema (Parel, north central Mumbai), saw the film and went back.

Kamal Haasan features on the ticket in the Tamil version.

I'm definitely his fan.

When you get a chance to use an actor on something like a weighing machine ticket, these are the cheap thrills we get.

You have made Merry Christmas in Tamil as well as Hindi. How comfortable are you in Tamil?

See, I can speak Tamil. I'm a Tamilian. But I only talk to my mom in Tamil. All the serials she watches are my sort of education.

Do you speak to your brothers in Tamil?

No. We talk in Hindi.

So yeah, I don't have too many Tamil friends, I have not studied in a Tamil school and have not lived in Chennai. But I have visited Chennai; I have relatives there.

I am a 'Bombay Tamilian', whatever that means.

So what made you take up this challenge?

The challenge was for two reasons. One is being a Tamilian, I should make a Tamil film just to be happy about it.

Here I got that opportunity because I had a well-known Tamil actor. And it is a small film.

Also, we had delayed our film a lot. We had made a set but due to COVID, we had to bring it down. That money doesn't come back and it does not show in the film either. It's money down the drain.

So I thought if we have another film that will have its own life...

Did you think of this because Vijay came on board?

No, when Vijay and Katrina were cast, it was meant to be a Hindi film only. But then these delays happened.

Then I met (Director Thiagarajan) Kumararaja, who's made Super Deluxe, and he said, why don't you do it, here's your chance!

He encouraged me.

It was fun when we thought of it, it was fun when it got over but while doing it, it was a little crazy because what happens is, you finish a scene after 20 days and then you have to do the same thing again with a different set of actors (the supporting cast).

So you wonder, should repeat the same camera angles and do the same thing or do we change something?

So we have done a bit of both.

Was Katrina okay with doing a Tamil version?

She was very much against it (initially), you know, this is not what I agreed to!

Deepa (Venkat), who is an accomplished dubbing artist, did the Tamil dub, but Katrina still had to say the lines and match the lip movements.

We had devised a sort of gibberish language by stringing together some English and Hindi words to match Katrina's lips (with the Tamil dialogue). Of course, the emotion has to be of her character in the film.

We have tried all the tricks in the book to make it easier for her, but it's to Katrina's credit that she managed to stick on.

Thrillers have always been your go-to cinema.

I mean, all kinds of films.

But I remember on the way to school, there would be these film posters put up and we would try to decipher the story from the poster. And if there was a gun, maybe for a boy, it was more exciting.

But when people think of Sriram Raghavan, they say, 'Oh, he makes amazing thrillers.' Doesn't that put you in a box?

Which is why I'm doing Ikkis. I'm getting out of that trap.

Ikkis is a war film. It's a drama, not a thriller.

What do you do when you are not making a film?

I read.

Watch movies.

Think of my next movie.

I don't have many other things to do.

What are you reading now?

Now, I'm too busy (with the promotions).

But (German film-maker Werner) Herzog's autobiography has just come to my house, so I keep looking at it and reading pages.

I end up buying more books than I can read. I think all of us do that.

I read fiction and non-fiction. But I read fiction with a vested interest that maybe I will find a good plot.

Yes, most of your movies are adapted from books.

Except Andhadhun; the kernel was taken from a French short film.

Ek Hasina Thi also had shades of Sidney Sheldon's If Tomorrow Comes. But it's not like I read the book and decided to make it. The script was already ready.

Also, a woman in prison is a genre by itself.

You are one of the few successful directors who remains so modest and accessible. Is it because you used to be a journalist (Sriram started his career at Stardust magazine)?

I don't know. Everybody's different.

I'm not even saying I'm modest.

I am a thug also (laughs).

What's the update on Ekkis?

Agastya (Nanda) has been training. We are sending him to a regiment so that he can familiarise himself. He is training to become a soldier.

'The magic mantra is 'Drop it!"

'As we grow older, we fight much less with each other.'

Seventy plus and she is as sprightly as ever. Actors half her age are not as busy as **Shabana Azmi**, who has just wrapped up a film, Bun Tikki, produced by Manish Malhotra and directed by Faraz Ansari, in which her pairing with Zeenat Aman has already evoked a lot of interest.

Dabba Cartel, the Web series she is doing with Excel Entertainment, is also scheduled to wrap up, after which she starts prepping for a new film which goes on the floors in February.

She is still receiving accolades for her work in Shekhar Kapur's What's Love Got to Do With It?, Karan Johar's Rocky Aur Rani Ki Prem Kahani and R Balki's Ghoomer.

"2023 was a satisfying year, work-wise," she admits.

But this interview is not so much about her professional achievements; it's very personal.

The love of her life, husband Javed Akhtar, turns 79 on January 17, and Shabana tells "Even after 39 years of marriage, I double over with laughter because he is so funny."

What plans to bring in Javedsaab'S birthday?

Some dear friends are hosting a small dinner for him because our house is broken down for renovations.

Which birthday, so far, has been the most fun?

'The magic mantra is 'Drop it!"

think the most memorable birthday was his 70th.

It was a lunch at Sukoon (their bungalow in Khandala) and there was live singing by Shankar Mahadevan, Sonu Nigam, Sona Mahapatra and several others.

Finally, they all came together and sang Kal Ho Na Ho with so much love and respect that there was not a dry eye left.

A birthday gift he has always cherished?

I'm not one for giving presents on special days.

If I think he would like something, I'll pick it up irrespective of the occasion.

My friends have got used to my not giving anything under pressure.

I love sweetly scented flowers, all Indian ones like mogra, sonchampa,juhi, chameli, sontakka and rajnigandha.

The first thing I do in the morning is rearrange the flowers, pick out the dead leaves, while Javed is reading eight morning newspapers.

On the other hand, he has this big thing about my birthday.

He insists on it being celebrated and spends a lot of time choosing a gift for me.

A gift you treasure...

We were at an exhibition of Salvador Dali in London and there was a sculpture that I really liked, a famous one on melting time.

Without my knowledge, Javed went through great lengths to procure it.

On my birthday, he gave it as a gift for me with his poem Waqt written in his handwriting and left them for me in the study.

It is my most favourite possession.

But the reason I love him is because I find him extraordinarily intelligent, sensitive, compassionate and witty.

'I would recommend it for all relationships.'

Even after 39 years of marriage, I double over with laughter because he is so funny.

Let us flashback to your first meeting with him...

I can't even remember that.

His parents were friends of my family.

He remembers coming to the commune of the Communist Party where we lived until I was nine years old.

Has Javdedsaab ever dedicated a sher to you?

I've talked about this earlier too, but it's so beautiful that it begs a re-mention.

Once we were passing by a flower shop and I said, "What beautiful flowers!"

Javed stopped the car and bought all the flowers in the shop.

The car was overflowing with flowers and I was almost buried amongst them.

A couple of days later, we had a fight and stopped talking.

He sent me a sher, 'Usi makaam par kal mujhko dekhkar tanha, bahut udaas huye phool bechnewale.'

Despite my mother (Shaukat Kaifi) warning me to beware of poets because they can mesmerise you with their words (having had an experience with her husband Kaifi Azmi, the legendary poet), I fell for Javed, totally and completely.

What qualities does he share in common with your father?

Both are feminists and they belong to the same world view.

Both are from UP, have a great sense of Lucknowi tehzeeb and propriety.

Both are deeply interested in politics and Urdu poetry.

And both would rather have UP ka khana rather than experiment with local cuisine.

Yours is a marriage rooted in dosti. What makes Javedsaab a good friend?

He is my 'go to' friend.

As we grow older, we fight much less with each other.

The magic mantra is 'Drop it!'

I would recommend it for all relationships.

In anger, we can say many hurtful things that can leave a deep scar, so dropping it is the healthy way of preventing that from happening.

When we are calmer, more receptive and less defensive, it's much easier to speak about it and iron things out.

My friends keep saying it's impossible, but trust me, with practise you can achieve it.

'In anger, we can say many hurtful things that can leave a deep scar, so dropping it is the healthy way of preventing that from happening.'

In every relationship and not just with your spouse.

Is there something about him that you wish you could change?

I don't think any relationship can be totally perfect.

Life is a package deal, you have to accept the person in totality.

I'm sure Javed feels the same about me.

The things about him that I would change are so surface and so trivial that they don't deserve a mention.

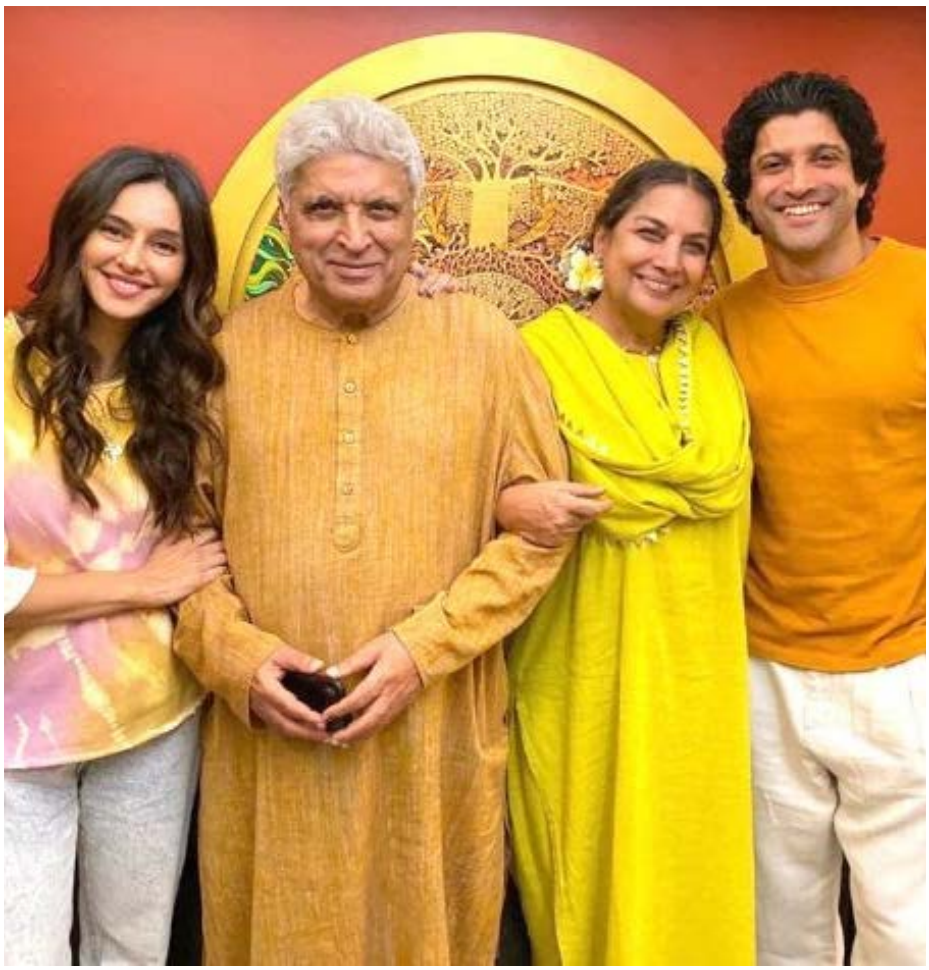
He may be 79 today, but Javedsaab will always be the youngest, most engaging, person in the room. What makes him an evergreen Peter Pan?

His interest in life: he is both an observer and a participant.

He has an incredible memory and is a terrific raconteur.

He is interested in history, politics, physics, poetry. music, writing, sports and films. He has an ever-curious mind.

What people know less about him is that he is a compassionate person and tears up easily by decency and people who hold onto dignity in their adversity.



There is little that he hasn't done yet. Is there something you would like to see Javedsaab experiment with this year?

He came here to be a director.

I would love to see Javed direct a film.

Among his books, which one would you want to end the day with and why?

Tarkash. It continues to touch me deeply.

He has this art of turning his pain and hurt into irony rather than wallow in them.

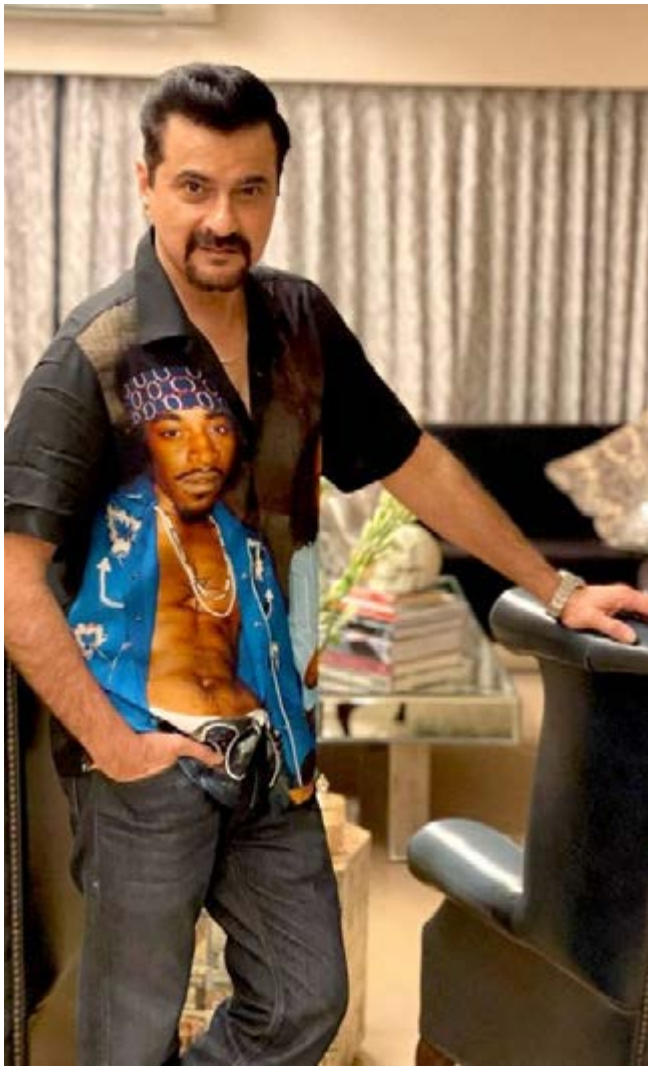
Hum na samjhe the baat itni si khwab sheshe ke.
Duniya paththar ki...

If you could dedicate a couplet to him on his birthday it would be...

Tum ho to gaata hai dilTum ho to hai sab haasil,
Tum nahin to kya hai yahan...
Tum ho to hai sapnon ke jaisa haseen ek sama.

‘Emotion is missing in today’s times’

‘You have to fight your own battles and I fought mine.’



After a promising start in the mid-1990s with successful films like Raja (1995) and Sirf Tum (1999), Sanjay Kapoor’s career appeared to slow down around the 2000s.

In 2009, he had a second innings with Zoya Akhtar’s MLuck By Chance, but it didn’t last long.

His career got a new lease of life when OTT gave him opportunities like Lust Stories, The Fame Game and Bloody Daddy.

Sanjay was recently seen in Sriram Raghavan’s thriller Merry Christmas.

“I was born in the industry, so I know what the audience can relate to. I’ve watched a lot of things very closely. It is always the impact of the role, never the length of it,”

What was the most fun bit about being in a Sriram Raghavan film?

The first thing that drew me towards the project was Sriram sir himself.

When I met him, and heard the role of Ronnie, I knew he is a very integral part of the film. The film takes off after his entry.

It was a no brainer for me working with a great director and doing a great, fun role.

It’s never the length of the role, but the impact it makes. I knew this role would make a great impact, so I grabbed it with both my hands.

Your character is what I would call a surprise package in the film. I really enjoyed this quirky, pompous, almost foolish side that you bring to this character. What was your brief for the role?

It was exactly what you said.

It was a fun-loving character. He was the most honest and genuine character in the film because he was not lying about what he is. He was an open book.

And the situation in itself is so funny, you have to be true to yourself and believe in that character.

I also improvised a lot, like that line, ‘Khaya piya kuchh nahi glass toda barah aana’ or ‘Albert Pinto ko gussa kyun aata hain?’

Sriram sir was very open to that.

One thing great about him is that if he knows that the screenplay is moving ahead, he’s not so bothered about the lines as such.

Is it true that Sriram doesn’t narrate the entire story?

Yeah. There was nothing like a hard-bound script, but he gave me a thing...

I’ve been here for 30 years, so you get to know the gist of the character, its importance, and what you’re doing.

I knew my entry was in the second half, but I also knew once I came, you won’t be able to take your eyes off that character.

As a star who has been a part of this industry for so long, you don’t seem to dwell on things like length of role, screen time etc.

No, I am never worried about that.

Some 20 years back, when my brother Boney (Kapoor) produced a film called Koi Mere Dil Se Poochhe (2002), I played a negative character for the first time.

When he bought the rights, he wanted me to do the hero’s role, which eventually Aftab (Shivdasani) did opposite Esha Deol.

I thought the negative role had a more impact as it had more meat to it. So I said I’m going to do the negative role because the hero’s role was a conventional one.

I was born in the industry, so I know what the audience can relate to. I’ve watched a lot of things very closely.

It is always the impact of the role, never the length of it.

What's the best thing about a Sriram Raghavan set?

Positive energy!

Sriram sir is such a quirky director, he has his own way of coming out with thrillers.

All his characters are interesting. Like in this film, my (on screen) wife (Ashwini Kalsekar) has one scene, but she leaves an impact because it's so well written.

That's the greatest quality of Sriram sir.

When you're on set, the whole pace is easy. There is a lot of calmness on set. And he's got a great team, including Pooja (Ladha Surti; Sriram Raghavan's co-writer), who's like a right hand man.

She's the editor, she's sitting behind the monitor.

She has co-written the screenplay. She's an integral part of Sriram's team and they make a formidable team.

That combination is fabulous.

Sriram sir is also very open to ideas; he is not rigid at all. If he thinks it's not disturbing the flow of the film, he lets you do what you want.

How was your on-set equation with Katrina Kaif and Vijay Sethupathi?

I have never worked with Katrina before, but when I met her on set, it didn't feel like I was meeting a stranger. I have known her for more than 20 years. I had that comfort level with her.

With Vijay Sethupathi, yes, I was meeting him for the first time, but we did a lot of readings and workshops.

By the time we started shooting, I kind of knew him. So there was a lot of comfort there.

It was very easy to work with them and the credit goes to Sriram sir. Because of him, there was absolute smooth sailing on set.

Even though comedy looks easy, as many actors say, it is actually pretty tough to pull it off on screen.

It is definitely the toughest.

As Ronnie, it was important not to do buffoonery to create laughter because that's a very old technique.

Earlier, comedians were cast to bring laughter on screen.

But the situation has changed now.

You are playing a character that could be funny or the situation is funny. And you are just being yourself.

Do you think OTT has empowered today's actors to go all out and try something new?

The best thing is that the star system is not there on OTT.

If you are not talented, you will not get that part.

This is the reason OTT has given some great actors to Indian cinema.

OTT gives a chance to good talent, which definitely used to be tougher earlier.

Your co-star Vijay Sethupathi recently said that he fears over exposure as an actor. Do you feel the same? How do you maintain that balance?

You can only get overexposed by social media, but with films, it is all spaced out today.

You're doing one film at a time.

There was a tendency to get more exposed earlier because actors were doing two to three shifts in a day.

People were doing 30-40 films.

I remember a lot of actors, without taking names, had two films releasing on the same Friday.

That's the reason those talented actors burnt out.

I find that difficult.

Back then, there used to be only a certain type of roles written for both male and female actors. Do you think that has changed in today's Bollywood?

Maybe the majority was like that.

But if you see, there were well-written roles for Shabana Azmi and Smita Patil.

Movies were made where female characters were important.

Earlier, it used to be like putting in one action scene and one item number or else, it won't work in Bihar or Uttar Pradesh.

If there's no action, it won't work in Punjab.

Now with OTT and multiplexes, you can cater to a certain kind of audience and don't have to please everybody.

When we made Merry Christmas, we knew it's for a niche audience and that audience is loving the film.

What do you miss about the '90s?

There are pros and cons of everything.

Everything is corporate in today's times, so a little bit of heart is missing.

Everybody's doing their work, everything is very professional... Earlier, there was more to life than just films.

Today, you don't even meet with the producer, you're dealing with an EP (executive producer).

When we did Sirf Tum (1999), even though it was produced by my brother, I was a part of every marketing strategy because Boney was busy.

I remember when we were giving out the music, Bhushanji(Kumar, T-Series CEO) used to say the Dilbar song should come first. But I'd say, 'Sir, the story is about Priya Gill and me, it won't suit the image of the film.'

Today, you don't have a say.

A person from the marketing team, who's not involved in the film, will decide how to market the film. I think that emotion is missing in today's times.

But to add that, I'm enjoying this phase more because there's more professionalism with the kind of work ethic we have today. That is helping everybody.

There was a time in your career when you were doing few films. Was that a conscious decision?

There is always a transition period for an actor.

A few films of mine didn't work at the box office.

I was getting a lot of offers, but they were not good enough for me.

I didn't want to be part of the riff-raff, where the film is big, but I'm not doing anything in it.

So I chose to get into production.

Also, the star system was there.

If you are a star, you will get a good part, otherwise you will not play anything important.

It was a phase where I chose not to be in front of the camera just for the sake of it.

But when I got a chance with films like Luck By Chance (2009), I did it. I also did an ensemble cast in Shaandaar (2015).

Then OTT came and I did Lust Stories (2018).

I've not looked back since then and now I'm working with the best directors in the business.

Do you have certain goals on how your career should shape out now?

I don't plan too much.

I believe it may take time, but you will get what you're worth.

My main goal is not to lose focus, and to keep working hard.

I'm getting the fruits of my earlier work today.

I was appreciated in Luck By Chance, but I didn't sign a single project for three years after that.

But whenever people talk to me, they talk about Luck By Chance. Even today, I'm getting work because of that film.

In 2015, you got into production with Tevar. But that did not work at the box office. What did that experience teach you?

I have seen production all my life. My father (Surinder Kapoor) has been a producer for 55-60 years.

I've seen production very, very, closely.

Tevar was a great experience, we had great fun making the film. It's a part of the thing, only 10 to 12 per cent films become a hit.

Arjun (Kapoor) was fantastic, Sonakshi (Sinha) was very good, Manoj (Bajpayee) was great and the director (Amit Sharma) was very good. That's the reason he is still one of the sought after directors today because he was very talented. He did Badhaai Ho, which was such a big hit.

Success or failure aside, you just have to do your job. These are hurdles and you have to jump them, and move ahead.

Do you think comparisons between your brothers and you somewhere affected your career?

It has got nothing to do with that.

A lot of people who were compared have done very well in their career.

The expectations are more when you are coming from film families because people already know you. They don't judge you as a newcomer because they are expecting more out of you.

What advice did you receive from Anil and Boney when things were not working in your favour?

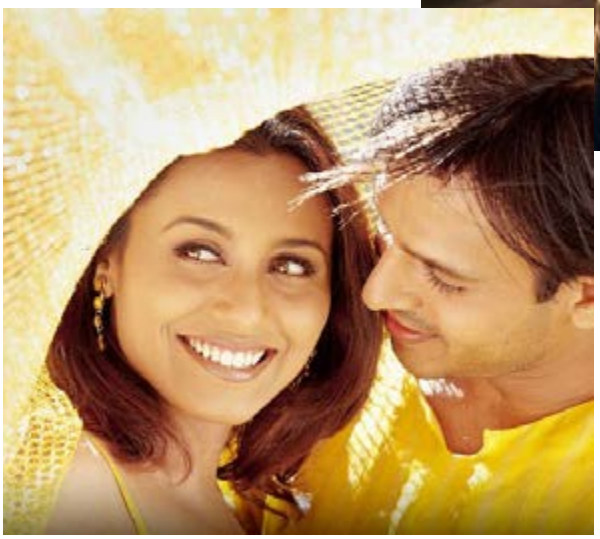
Nothing really. We all go through highs and lows.

I'm old enough and educated, nobody can advise you. You have to fight your own battles and I fought mine.

‘Rohit Shetty’s Copverse has made Cops Heroes’

‘Indian Police Force encapsulates the same spirit, the essence of scale, the essence of action and that riveted rhythm that Rohit Shetty brings about, but is complete with absolute realism.’

Vivek Oberoi is super excited to be seen next in Rohit Shetty’s cop drama, Indian Police Force.



“We’ve always had that admiration for our men in uniform and the armed forces but of the police force, we’ve always had a lesser opinion in our country. This has changed; Rohit Shetty’s Copverse has single-handedly evolved that,” Vivek tells.

How and when did Rohit Shetty offer you Indian Police Force?

We’ve met multiple times, mostly over social and charitable causes, because we align on that.

He’s always been there for me whenever I’ve done anything through my organisation for police families, people in uniform, free cancers, screenings, testing, sometimes treatments for the children of the police, more of the foot soldiers than the officers.

Rohitbhai has always been a phone call away every time I’ve asked him to come in and support these campaigns.

We’ve always said, let’s work together, let’s do something together.

And then it finally happened?

He always said to me that when there is a role which I think would be of your calibre, I’ll call you. And he did, true to his word.

I’ve loved Vikram Bakshi.

It’s been a wonderful experience finally being on set and working with Rohit.

You were one of the most sought after actors after Company and Saathiya. What do you think went wrong? Are you poised for a comeback with Indian Police Force?

I believe that while there will be a lot of analysis or data if you evaluate anybody’s career, good choices, bad choices, you get so much evaluation there.

I think you can’t drive forward when you’re looking into the rear view mirror.

I don’t do that as a practice because it turns into an obsession with the past, which is something you cannot change.

In terms of where I am today, the confidence, the self-assuredness, the acknowledgement that, ‘Hey, you did well, man. It’s been 21 years and more than 50, 60 movies. You have stood your ground, you’re still growing in terms of your craft.’

So there is a feeling of self-satisfaction?

That genuine appreciation to myself, not to the outer world, the conversation with myself when I look at myself in the mirror, appreciating and loving who I am today, holistically, not just as an actor, a star, a commodity, but also a person, a father... When I look at the whole story with context, it gives me a sense that I’ve achieved a lot in my life.

I'm super-poised, relaxed and excited for the work I'm doing because the sense of insecurity and fear of consequences have long departed from my life.

How tough was it doing out-and-out action?

It's not an out and out action series. It has tremendous scale, intrigue and dramatic scenes.

It also has a depth of emotion that goes deeper beyond the uniform. That's what I loved about it.

I believe there is another reason why Indian Police Force is special.

Yes, that was the first time my son Vivaan came on set.

I think he was super awed by the explosions and the bullets and the gunfire and all of that.

I guess boys will be boys.

You seem to have enjoyed yourself with this project. Do you like working on the OTT platform?

It's a liberating avenue because here, you are able to delve deeply into a character because you have six, seven, eight, 10 episodes to peel, layer upon layer of the character.

That's what is exciting.

From a creative perspective, I think it's very democratic in its discoverability. You'll have Indian Police Force, which is a big well-promoted show.

Then you'll have a smaller show that Amazon is putting up. It doesn't have the budget but when you go to discover Indian Police Force, you'll also see something like that. You'll be drawn to it and maybe check it out.

If it's good, it has a chance to have the same number of eyeballs. There's nothing holding it back.

There's no limitations in terms of screens and show times.

Do you see OTT as the way forward for the film industry?

If your content is good, it can reach anywhere. That's the beauty of OTT. That's what I enjoy the most.

So it's slowly coming to a point where the film is the star, the story is the star, the trailer is the star.

And what the star adds to it is beyond the performance, he adds an awareness factor.

It creates awareness because it has those eyeballs. But the actual decision of going out to see that movie, I think, is now all about the trailer and the way you're experiencing it.

Because you're flooded with so much good content on OTT that to take that extra effort, to pay those extra bucks and make that effort to watch a movie in the theatres... you really need to be able to give them something to draw them out.

Do you see your show as improving the image of the police force?

We've always had that admiration for our men in uniform and the armed forces, but of the police force, we've always had a lesser opinion in our country.

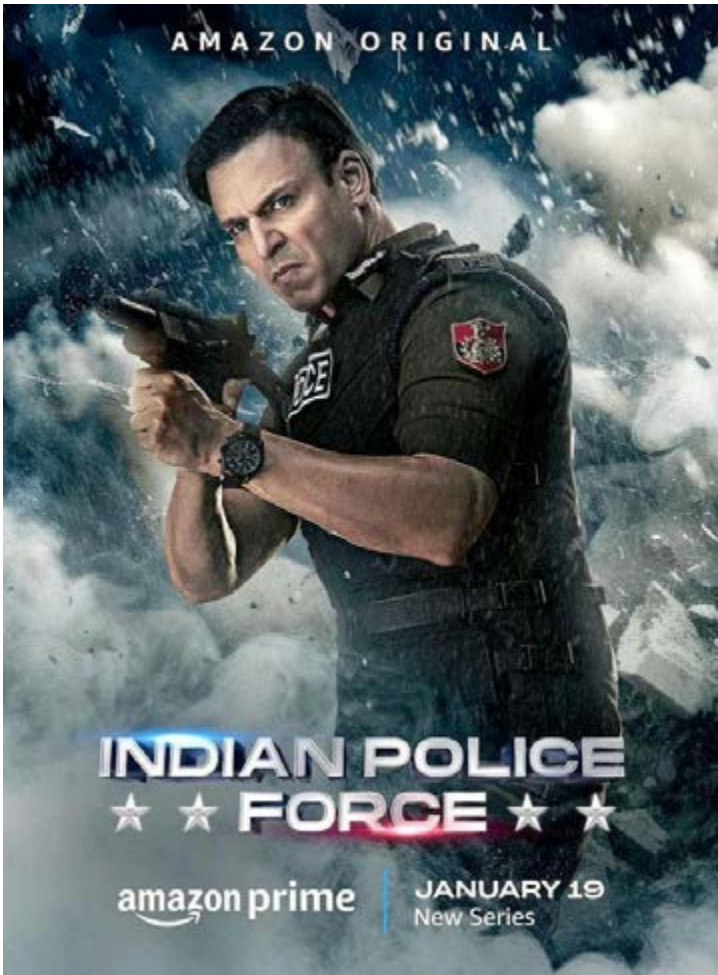
This has changed; Rohit Shetty's Copverse has single-handedly evolved that.

I think the difference between the other worlds and characters and this is that those are such larger-than-life characters that they at some point, require some degree of suspension of belief because it's entertaining popcorn cinema.

Whereas Indian Police Force encapsulates that same spirit, the essence of scale, the essence of action and that riveted rhythm that Rohit Shetty brings about but is complete with absolute realism.

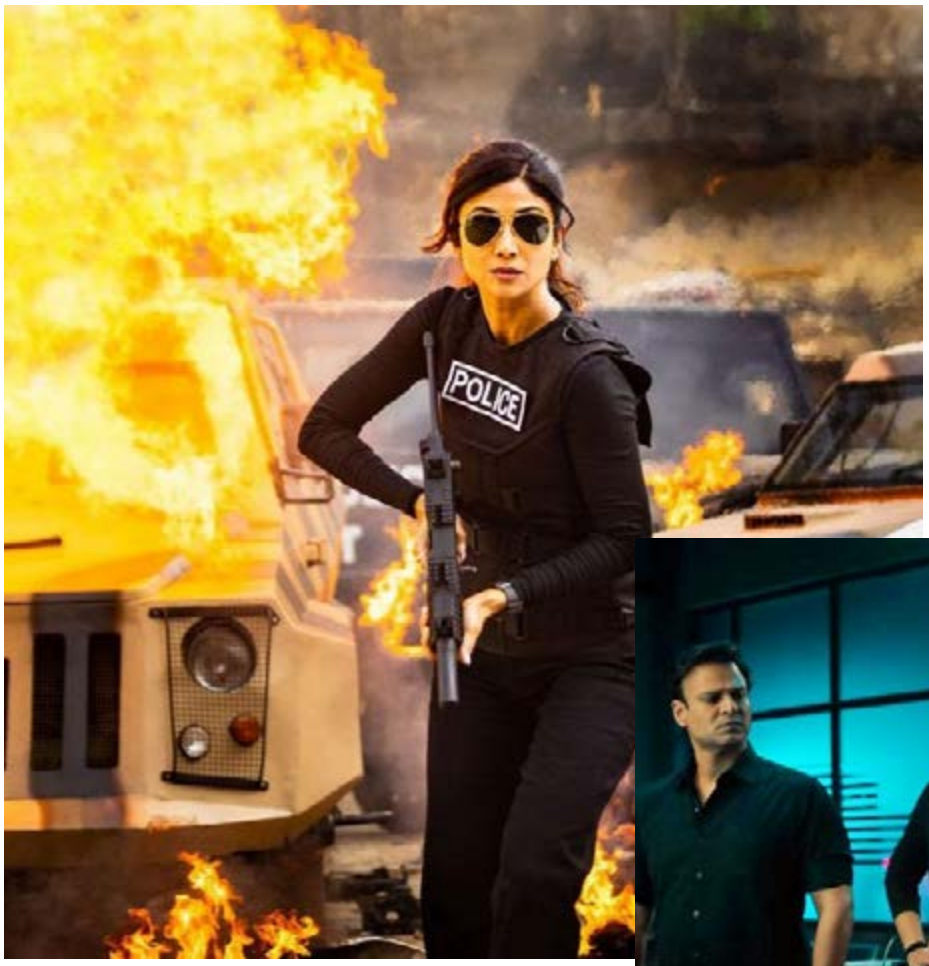
It feels authentic in the OTT space. It absolutely feels real.

It feels like when I would watch a well-researched Jack Ryan, which I incidentally voiced in Hindi for Amazon Prime Video. I feel it's the same rhythm, energy, authenticity and realism, with that rawness and grittiness, with which Rohit Shetty has shot this, keeping the same larger-than-life heroism of the men and women in uniform.



'Happy film-makers are *rediscovering* me'

'Whatever you see of me on celluloid will be with the idea of wanting to push the envelope.'



Shilpa Shetty plays the first female cop in Rohit Shetty's copverse, and she's loving every moment of it.

The 48-year-old actor has done a lot of prep to play Gujarat ATS Chief Tara Shetty in the Web series, Indian Police Force.

"It was great fun to be associated with Rohit Shetty. He has a different style and so you will see a different presentation of Shilpa Shetty, yet again."

What was your prep like for Rohit Shetty's Indian Police Force?

Everything happened so fast with Indian Police Force!

I was actually leaving for an outdoor shoot for Sukhi, but I had to make sure that in between my Chandigarh schedule, I had to come back.

I had to prepare my mind to do diverse characters. That was the hardest part, actually.

But I think my training from the '90s came to great use.

I am a director's actor and Rohit is a fantastic director.

When it comes to this milieu, getting into his cop as the first female cop, I had it all laid out for me. A lot of prep done for me in terms of how I needed to play this character.

Obviously, I added my own nuances and colour to my character, Tara.

Did you bond well with your director and co-stars?

I think it was rather easy because working on a film is different from a Web series.

You know what you have to do in every episode and you deliver accordingly.

It was great fun to be associated with Rohit Shetty. He has a different style and so you will see a different presentation of Shilpa Shetty, yet again.

As for interacting with my co-stars, it's been nothing but a pleasure to work with Vivek Oberoi, whom I've known personally.

We have had many long conversations and that continued on set as well. He's such a phenomenal actor.

I love the ease with which he does what he does. That comes from experience and his inherent talent.

Sid (Malhotra) is really calm and composed. I think it's a quality that these new age actors possess.

I admire the way Sid approaches his work.

And he's so extremely handsome that he makes everything look so good. He makes me look good too.

So it was an absolute pleasure to work with him.

He's an absolute gentleman and a very hard working actor.

I believe your role was originally written for a male actor?

I just think the role was really well etched out, well written and I have to give Rohit the credit of treating the character with absolute honesty and giving the character all that it required without a gender bias.

What are your future plans? Do you intend to do more work this year?

Well, I don't plan the future, the future is already predestined.

I'm treading the path with extreme gratitude in my heart.

I can only assure you that now on, whatever you see of me on celluloid will be with the idea of wanting to push the envelope, changing the perspective of me as an actor and going deeper into discovering what more I have in store.

I'm so happy that film-makers are actually rediscovering me and a new facet to my talent.

What is your take on the kind of films that are working at the box office?

Well, the films that do well are actually the ones that are able to surprise you or appease you in terms of content. And they also are a reflection of the fabric of our society.

So somewhere maybe they recognise through content that oh, this is something that exists, maybe it's a revelation through a film-maker's perspective or maybe a new take on how an actor plays a certain character. There has to be some newness to that content.

The madness is still the same, the method is different.

It's amazing to see film-makers take those risks because you have streaming platforms that take away from the onus of box office numbers.

So people are more open to still making interesting content even if it does not cater to theatre audiences because people are devouring all kinds of content on OTT.

I really feel very happy as an artist to come across so many different kinds of films and characters or choices that we didn't have back in the day.

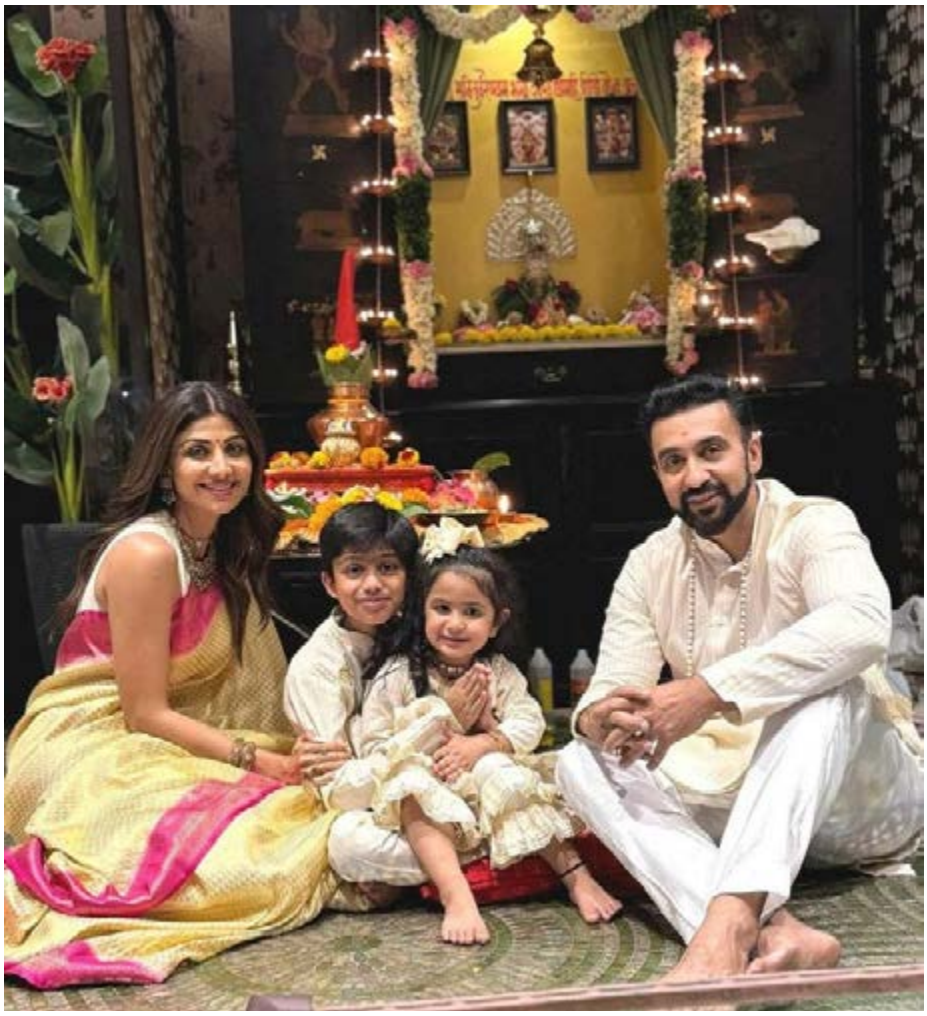
Does your husband share parental responsibilities with you?

Raj and I spend quality time with our kids.

I don't work on Sundays.

I've come from the mindset of being brought up by extremely busy, working parents, who actually spent less time than we have with our kids and we've turned out great.

This also inculcates the sense of work ethics and respect for the fact that my children see mom going to work and they grow up understanding the value of work.



Yes, so that's how I deal with it.

We take long holidays with them.

I enjoy my life and I'm blessed that work is still coming my way and I have beautiful children who encourage me to work and are proud of me.

‘I AM NOT COMPLETELY NEW TO SUCCESS

‘I started as an actor when I was only two-and-a-half years old, so I am not new to attention and the perks of being an actor.’

Teja Sajja is living his dream as his new film Hanu Man has become a huge success.

He admits that Director Prasanth Verma and he faced a lot of struggle to make the film and it finally paid off.

Teja tells **Subhash K Jha**, "There is a tremendous response from across the country that has taken us by surprise."

First of all, I want to congratulate you for this astounding success.

Thank you, Sir, thank you. I feel like I am living in a dream.

I am in the airport now and there are 30-40 people waiting for pictures with me as soon as I finish talking to you.

How do you feel?

Firstly, I am not completely new to success. My earlier film with the same director, Zombie Reddy, was also a success, though nothing like this.

There is a tremendous response from across the country that has taken us by surprise. I am getting congratulatory calls from across industries.

It feels very comforting when stars, who had their releases on the same day as Hanu Man, are calling me.

Sivakarthikeyan Sir saw the film and congratulated me.

Dhanush Sir, who had his release (Captain Miller) on the same day as Hanu Man, has seen the film.

Ravi Teja Sir's film was supposed to release on the same day but got postponed at the last minute. He has also been very nice.

Now you are flying to Bengaluru?

Yes. I am going to meet Shivanna Garu Sir (Kannada superstar Shivaraj Kumar).

I am flying down to Bengaluru to seek his blessings and thank him for the support.

That is so thoughtful of you.

I have been a part of the Telugu industry for so long.

I started as an actor when I was only two-and-a-half years old, so I am not new to attention and the perks of being an actor.

What has changed now is the opportunities.

My producers now have the financial clout to narrate bigger stories.

We had big ideas earlier too but were always struggling to get the budgets to match our vision.

Your own financial clout also change with Hanu Man?

Of course, but my remuneration won't impact the production.

It can, if you decide to become a producer.

No, Sir. That would be too much stress for me.

I am already doing a strenuous job.

I don't want to add to my responsibilities.

How did you land your first role at such a young age?

Sir, it was destiny.

My cousin had taken me to buy some toys at a bookstore.

The director Gunasekhar Sir, who has made Rudramadevi, spotted me at the store.

You were a cute baby?

Yeah yeah, and very agile also. Gunasekhar Sir took my pictures and contacted my parents.

They were taken aback when he offered me a role, as any parent would be if their two year old is offered a film.

What was the role?

I was the son of Chiranjeevi garu.

The film Choodalani Vundi was based on a father-son relationship, so it had a lot of emotion. I had to do a lot of crying and dramatics.

It was a hit way back in 1988. By the time the film was released, I was three-and-a-half.

I remember attending the function to celebrate the film's 175 days in theatres.

Now, of course, success is not about 175 days, but Rs 175 crore (Rs 1.75 billion) in the first week.

Which Hanu Man will achieve.

All God's will, Sir. We worked really hard and within a very tight budget.

My director Prasanth Verma and I faced a lot of hardships in making the film.

But it finally paid off.

Our heart was in the right place.

Sakshi Tanwar Birthday: When the star said OTT gave her a chance to 'unbox and explore' her acting skill

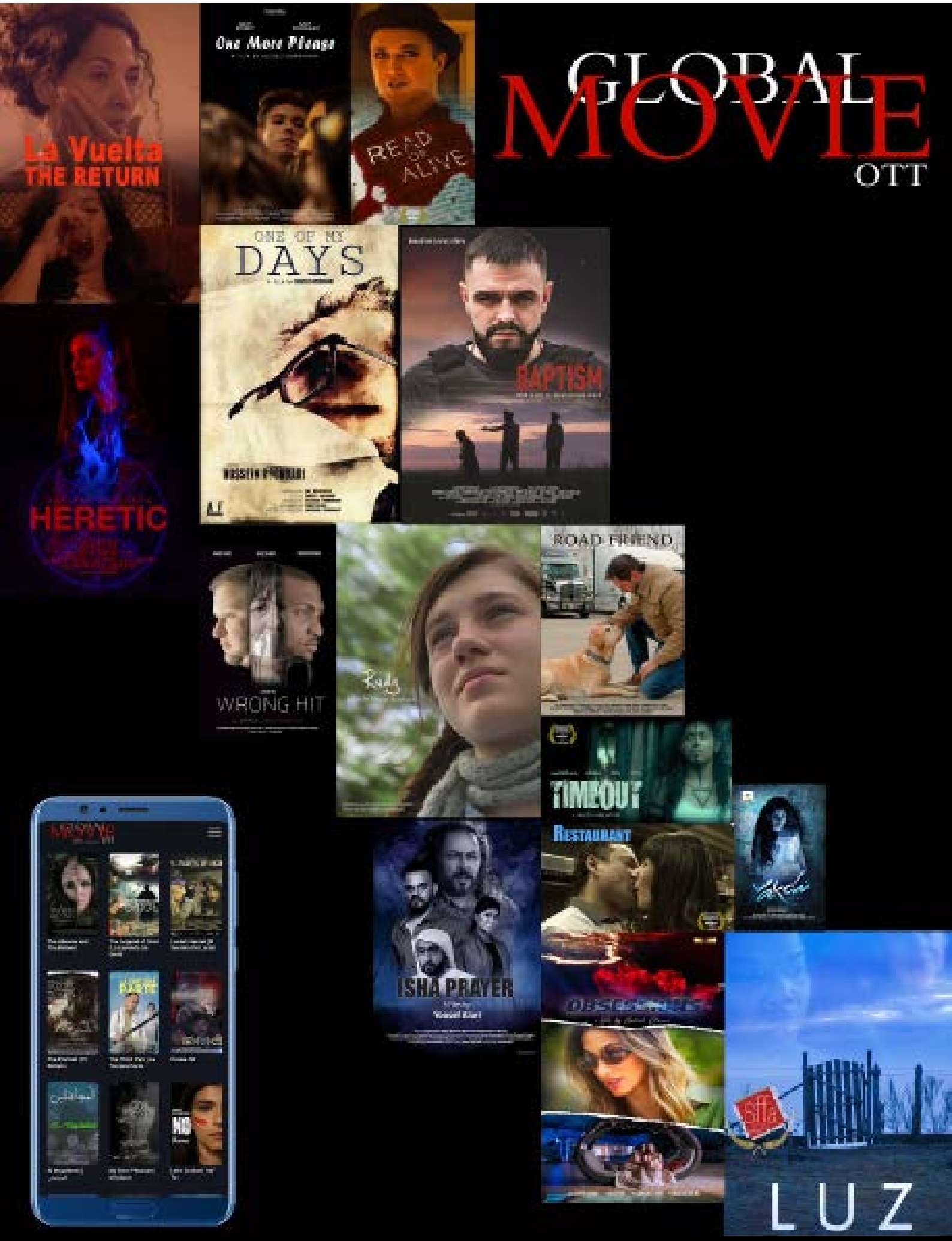
Sakshi Tanwar Birthday: After a glorious career in television, the actress embraced the medium of web series where she was able to play versatile rolesFrom her first big break on the small-screen in the show 'Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii' as 'Parvati' to winning hearts with another TV series 'Bade Achhe Lagte Hain', the journey of Sakshi Tanwar to becoming a household name has been quite interesting from 'Parvati' to 'Priya'. While she was the most popular name of prime time television, the actress has effortlessly made the transition to web series. On Sakshi Tanwar's birthday today, we revisit the time she spoke about how OTT platform enabled her to explore her acting skills. Sakshi Tanwar has gained visibility on OTT platforms with several web series including Mai and the film 'Dial 100', also featuring Manoj Bajpayee and Neena Gupta. The actress said she feels "unboxed and liberated" as an actress.

Sakshi said in an earlier interview, "Honestly speaking I have the utmost gratitude for all the popularity and opportunity I got from the TV series I have done at the beginning of my career. When I came to Mumbai and started working, TV and films were the only two options and OTT did not exist back then. But yes, after working for years I naturally developed a sense of belonging in the world of acting and found a space in the mind of a section of the audience." Initially, I was kind of overworking also because I wanted to achieve everything, good roles, the success of the show and love from the audience for my characters. Eventually, I realised my drive changed, after achieving all that. Now, I want to pick and choose, I want a new challenge in character, I want versatility."

She added, "That way, OTT and web series liberated me as an actress. There is nothing wrong with playing a housewife in a TV series but look at the kind of role I got to play - an air traffic controller, a scientist, a vulnerable mother - this versatility I have got here on digital platforms. It's like I have got a chance to unbox and explore my acting skill with each web show, projects I am choosing now."

The actress appeared in web series like 'Karrle Tu Bhi Mohabbat', 'The Final Call', 'Mission Over Mars' and the short film 'Ghar Ki Murgi' directed by Ashwini Iyer Tiwari.

GLOBAL MOVIE OTT



Why do we experience more hairfall in Winter?

Hair fall in winter is connected to the environmental changes that happen during the chilly season. There are more reasons why you may experience hair fall in winter.
Winter not only makes your skin and lips dry, but also your hair. A drop in temperature and chilly winds can lead to various hair-related problems. You may have to deal with dry and frizzy hair, itchy scalp, dandruff, and hair fall. It can be heartbreaking to see so many hair strands on the floor. We tell you why hair fall in winter happens and ways to take care of them.

What causes hair fall in winter?

Hair fall in winter can be attributed to various factors. But it's important to remember that everyone will experience things differently and not everyone will be impacted by these factors in the same way

Here are some of the potential causes of hair fall in winter:

01 Dry Scalp

Cold winter air tends to be dry, and indoor heating systems further contribute to reduced humidity. This can lead to dry scalp, causing itching and flakiness. Dry scalp conditions may weaken hair follicles and result in increased hair fall, says cosmetologist and skin expert Dr Jatin Mittal.

02 Lack of Moisture

It is not just the heaters which can strip the air of moisture, but also hot showers that can dry out the scalp and hair. Lack of moisture can make the hair more brittle and prone to breakage.

03 Poor diet and nutrition

During winter, people may be less inclined to consume a balanced diet rich in essential vitamins and minerals. They may want to eat more hot fried foods. Less intake of vitamins A, C, D, and E, as well as iron and omega-3 fatty acids, leads to weakened hair and increased shedding.

04 Reduced sun exposure

In winter, there is often less exposure to sunlight. Sunlight is a natural source of vitamin D, which is important for hair health, says the expert. Reduced sunlight exposure may result in lower vitamin D levels, potentially impacting the strength and growth of hair.

05 Stress and lifestyle factors

The difficulties of adjusting to lower temperatures, work demands and holiday season can lead to stress. Stress can interfere with the hair growth cycle. Also, changes in routines and habits, including wearing hats and scarves more frequently, may be a factor in hair breakage.

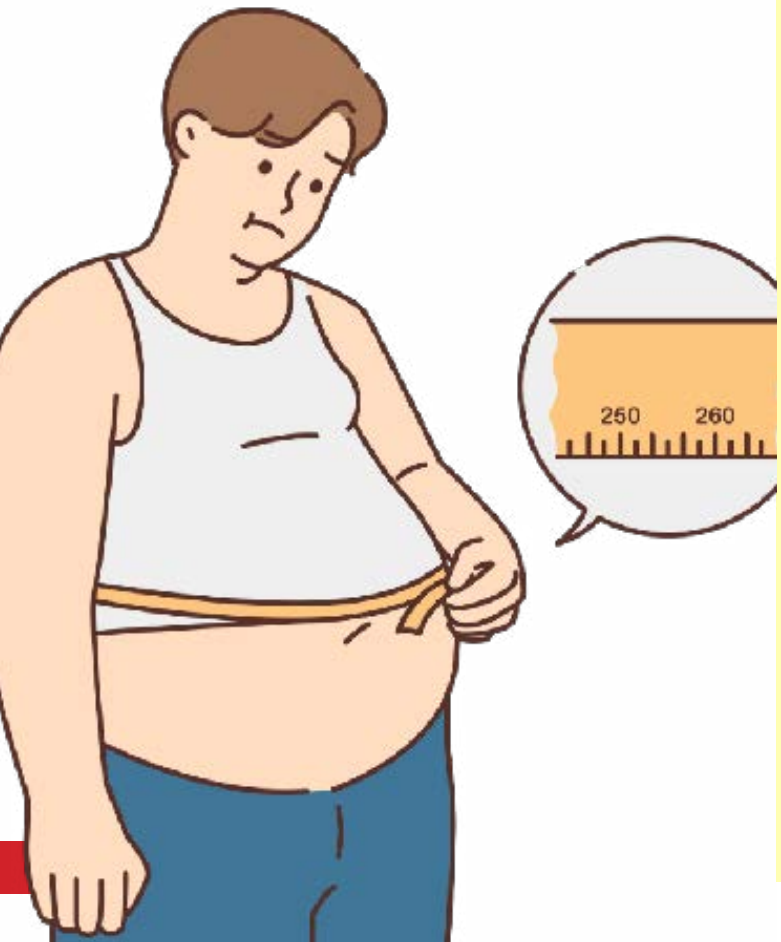
Natural Home Remedies
TO REDUCE BELLY FAT

Reducing belly fat is something many people desire. It can be because of that shirt or dress that doesn't fit or out of embarrassment of having a bulging tummy. But belly fat can pose more serious health risks like diabetes, obesity, and heart diseases. Whatever the reason may be, reducing belly fat is becoming an important fitness goal for people.

What Causes Belly Fat?

The things that can cause fat accumulation in your body are:

- Lack of physical exercise
- Overuse of alcohol
- Eating more than what is required



Some other factors can also lead to fat accumulation in the body:

- Hypothyroidism (underactive thyroid gland)
- Taking antidepressants, antipsychotics, or birth control pills
- Pregnancy
- Menopause
- Stress
- Disrupted sleep
- Quitting smoking

Home Remedies for Belly Fat:

Gone are the days when people accepted belly fat as a regular change of ageing. Instead, people are becoming more aware and want to have a healthy body. Here are some home remedies that might help to lose belly fat.

1. Chilli Pepper:

Intake of capsicum or chilli pepper may be related to the reduction of accumulated fat in the body. Also, capsicum might be valuable to promote the use of fat collected in the body.5 You can put capsicum in your foods and vegetable dishes to help in reducing fat in the belly.

2. Ginger:

Ginger may offer many health benefits for people wanting to reduce belly fat. Taking ginger is associated with enhanced fat metabolism in the body. Ginger could also facilitate the usage of fat in the body. Taking ginger also helps reduce fat storage in the body, causing an overall reduction in body weight.

3. Turmeric:

Turmeric has many health advantages. Turmeric may reduce the fat deposit in the body. It could help reduce body fat and body weight as per animal studies.5 You can mix some turmeric in a glass of warm water and take it every morning to reduce belly fat.

4. Cumin:

Cumin or jeera is a common seed used as a spice in many Indian households. Cumin has many health benefits and is often used for dealing with diarrhoea and other stomach diseases. In addition, intake of cumin may help enhance fat breakdown in the body and reduce the appetite.6 These benefits of cumin might help you reduce belly fat and attain a healthy weight yourself. You can put cumin in various foods, dishes and salads.

5. Lemon:

Lemon is valuable for health in preventing lifestyle-related illnesses. For example, lemon helps promote fat metabolism and reduce body weight and fat accumulation.7 Lemon might help reduce the accumulation of belly fat. Add some lemon juice to a glass of warm water and drink it in the morning on an empty stomach.

6. Green Tea:

Green tea is a popular beverage used to maintain health and is helpful in preventing numerous diseases. Green tea intake could reduce fat accumulation, as per several animal studies. Other benefits like reduction in body weight and fatty tissues have also been observed.8 Brew a cup of green tea and drink it every morning to help reduce belly fat and manage weight.

05

Most delicious & healthy 'Spinach Recipes' for winter

As the winter season sets in, incorporating spinach into your diet becomes more appealing than ever. Packed with essential vitamins and minerals, spinach not only adds vibrant flavour to your meals but also offers numerous health benefits. Rich in iron, fiber, and antioxidants, this leafy green vegetable can boost your immune system and support overall well-being. To make your winter meals both wholesome and tasty, consider trying out five spinach recipes that seamlessly blend health and flavour in one. These recipes promise not only to keep you warm but also to tantalise your taste buds with the goodness of spinach.

Are you looking for different ways to add spinach to your daily diet?
Here are 5 most delicious spinach recipes that you can enjoy during the winter season.

1 Creamy Spinach and Mushroom Soup

Ingredients:

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 onion, chopped
- 2 cloves, garlic, minced
- 8-10 mushroom pieces, sliced
- 4 cups vegetable broth
- 1 potato, diced
- 4 cups fresh spinach
- 1 cup heavy cream
- Salt and pepper to taste

Instructions:

Step 1: In a large pot, saute onions and garlic in olive oil until softened.
Step 2: Add mushrooms and cook until they release moisture.
Step 3: Pour in vegetable broth and add diced potatoes. Simmer until potatoes are tender.
Step 4: Now, add spinach and stir until wilted.
Step 5: Add heavy cream, salt, and pepper.
Step 6: Cook for an additional 5 minutes. Serve hot.

2 Winter spinach salad with roasted vegetables

Ingredients:

- 4 cups baby spinach
- 1 sweet potato, peeled and cubed
- 1 beet, peeled and sliced
- 1/2 cup pecans, toasted
- 1/4 cup crumbled goat cheese
- Balsamic vinaigrette dressing

Instructions:

Step 1: vs sweet potato and beet slices with olive oil, salt, and pepper. Roast in the oven until tender.
Step 2: In a large bowl, combine roasted vegetables with baby spinach, pecans, and goat cheese.
Step 3: Drizzle with balsamic vinaigrette and toss to combine.

3 Spinach and lentil stew

Ingredients:

- 1 cup green lentils, rinsed
- 1 onion, chopped
- 2 carrots, diced
- 2 celery stalks, chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 4 cups vegetable broth
- 2 cups fresh spinach
- 1 teaspoon cumin
- 1 teaspoon smoked paprika
- Salt and pepper to taste

Instructions:

Step 1: In a large pot, saute onions, carrots, and celery until softened.
Step 2: Add garlic, cumin, and smoked paprika. Cook for an additional minute.
Step 3: Pour in vegetable broth and add lentils. Simmer until the lentils are tender.
Step 4: Add the fresh spinach, stir, and cook until it becomes wilted.

4 Spinach and lentil stew

Ingredients:

- 2 cups whole wheat flour
- One cup of freshly chopped spinach leaves
- One coarsely chopped green chilli (optional for spice)
- 1 teaspoon ginger, grated
- 1/2 teaspoon cumin powder
- Salt, to taste
- Water, as needed for kneading
- Ghee or oil, for cooking

Instructions:

Step 1: Prepare the dough
In a mixing bowl, combine the whole wheat flour, chopped spinach, green chili, grated ginger, cumin powder, and salt. Gradually add water and knead the mixture into a smooth dough. Give it ten to fifteen minutes to rest.
Step 2: Divide and roll
Divide the dough into small, lemon-sized balls.
Using a rolling pin, flatten each ball into a circular disc. When necessary, dust with flour to avoid sticking.
Step 3: Cooking the parathas
Heat a tawa (griddle) over medium heat.
Place a rolled paratha on the hot tawa and cook until bubbles start to appear.
Flip the Parantha, and spread a teaspoon of ghee or oil on the cooked side.
Cook until both sides are golden brown, pressing gently with a spatula to ensure even cooking on both sides.
Serve the spinach parathas hot with yogurt, pickles, or any favorite side dish.

5 Spinach and feta-stuffed chicken breasts

Ingredients:

- 4 boneless, skinless chicken breasts
- 2 cups fresh spinach
- 1/2 cup feta cheese, crumbled
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- Salt and pepper to taste
- Olive oil for cooking

Instructions:

Step 1: Turn the oven on to 375°F, or 190°C.
Step 2: In a bowl, mix spinach, feta, garlic, salt, and pepper.
Step 3: Make a pocket in each chicken breast and fill it with the mixture of spinach and feta.
Step 4: Secure with toothpicks and season the outside with salt and pepper.
Step 5: Heat olive oil in an oven-safe skillet. Brown the chicken on each side.
Step 6: Transfer the skillet to the oven and bake for 20-25 minutes or until the chicken is cooked through.

10 Best Cities in KAZAKHSTAN to Visit for Your Next Travel

Kazakhstan, the ninth-largest country, covers vast areas of treasures that are yet to be discovered. The timeless charm of this Central Asian gem lies in its beautiful cities. Kazakhstan cities will leave you in awe of their beauty and weirdness. There are unearthed sites, unexplored attractions, and unwitnessed landscapes waiting for you to discover. From the Atlai Mountains to the Caspian Sea, Majestic Canyon, Colossal Glaciers, and much more, an array of experiences awaits your arrival.

With two time zones and five climate zones, Kazakhstan has a wide geographical diversity that accounts for exciting travel experiences. If you want to experience everything that Kazakhstan has to offer, you must skim through this post. We have curated a list of the best Kazakhstan cities where you can relish dramatic mountains, canyons, valleys, and lakes.

Top 10 Most Visited Kazakhstan Cities

1. Almaty

Almaty is known as the largest cultural hub of Kazakhstan. It is one of the gorgeous Kazakhstan cities, offering a beautiful outdoor setting. Set in the foothills of the Alatau mountains, Almaty offers picture-perfect landscapes. The soaring snow-capped mountains create a gracious backdrop for everyone. Kazakhstan offers vibrant attractions such as the Central State Museum, Zenkov Cathedral, Charyn Canyon, Kok Tobe Park, and Museum of Folk Musical Instruments. Besides, there are various exciting outdoor activities that you can indulge in. From hiking the mountains to sitting by the upper lake, Almaty has so much for its tourists.

2. Astana

Astana is one of the best cities in Kazakhstan to visit. It is now known as the Nur-Sultan. This capital city is a living example of a modernized nation. With a plethora of corporate centers and soaring skyscrapers, Astana offers a magnificent panoramic view. You can experience Soviet, Western, and Kazakh influences wherever you go. There is no lack of offbeat experiences in this cosmopolitan city, with forward-looking youngsters, architectural marvels, peaceful parks, and finger-licking food. Some major attractions in Astana are Bayterek Tower, City Park, Sky Beach Club, Khan Shatyr Entertainment Center, The State Theatre of Opera & Ballet, and more.

3. Taraz

Taraz is one of the most enticing Kazakhstan cities that stands as a testament to the nation's rich history. Filled with captivating landscapes, diverse culture, and thriving attractions, Taraz is a budding tourist destination. This city offers a marvelous blend of ancient traditions and modern amenities. If you are seeking historical insights and contemporary experiences, Taraz is an ideal place for you. Some major Taraz attractions worth exploring are Aisha Bibi Mausoleum, Zhengis Park, Central Mosque Taraz, Ancient Taraz Archaeological Park, and more. You can even enjoy the festivals and events in Taraz that happen throughout the year.

4. Shymkent

Shymkent is one of the stunning cities to visit in Kazakhstan that unveils the charms of Kazakhstan. Located in the southern part of Kazakhstan, Shymkent is an alluring tourist destination. It beacons travelers with natural splendors, cultural heritages, and gorgeous attractions. Being the third largest city in Shymkent, you can witness numerous historical landmarks, diverse traditions, mouthwatering food, and contemporary marvels. Shymkent boasts plenty of cultural sites, historical treasures, and UNESCO Sites that captivate the heart of every traveler. This city promises an unforgettable vacation through the southern charm of Kazakhstan.

5. Baikonur

Baikonur is one of the most visited Kazakhstan cities to visit. Situated in the steppe of Kazakhstan, Baikonur holds a Soviet charm that allures visitors from around the world. The famous Baikonur Cosmodrome, with countless space missions, attracts the attention of many visitors. Tourists can take guided tours to witness the launch pads where iconic missions like Yuri Gagarin's groundbreaking journey began. Some other attractions in Baikonur are Yuri Gagarin Statue, Nadelin Catastrophe, Soyuz Spacecraft Model, etc. If you are a science enthusiast, this city will welcome you with open arms.

6. Semey

Semey is one of the most-loved Kazakhstan cities that you must visit. Located in the eastern region of Kazakhstan, Semey is the country's famous historical city. The whole city is surrounded by popular monuments and fascinating architecture. Semey's attractions offer a unique insight into its history and cultural heritage. The history of this city spans back centuries. Example of the city's long history is the Abay Museum and the Memorial Museum of Victims of Political Repression, which you can explore here. Semey's natural beauty is one of the most captivating things in Kazakhstan. The quaint Irtysh River offers a tranquil setting for all peace seekers.

7. Aktau

Aktau is one of the best Kazakhstan cities to explore, with coastal beauty, impressive history, delicious cuisines, and modernity. Often referred to as the "City of Winds", Aktau offers a perfect blend of urban modernization and tranquil surroundings. Being near the Caspian Sea, Aktau offers pristine beaches and picturesque settings. The turquoise waters of the Caspian Sea create a perfect backdrop for sailing, swimming, leisurely walks, and beach pictures. Aktau is the gateway to the Mangistau region, which is unique geological formations and beautiful landscapes. The rocky cliffs of mountains create a surreal backdrop that looks like a scene from a sci-fi movie.

8. Karaganda

Karanganda is one of the best cities in Kazakhstan to visit anytime. Located in Central Kazakhstan, Karanganda offers a magical blend of green spaces and captivating attractions. Karanganda offers many natural retreats, engaging sites, and cultural delights. If you want to experience Karanganda's cultural diversity, you can witness it through the museums and theatres. These museums introduce tourists to the customs and traditions of the city. This city perfectly strikes a balance between urban development and natural serenity. The city's culinary delights are also one of the savory attractions for visitors coming here.

9. Turkistan

Turkistan is one of the best Kazakhstan cities to visit. Nestled in the south of Kazakhstan, Turkistan is surrounded by the Kazakh Desert. It emerges as a cultural and historical center that captivates travelers with its architectural gems, rich heritage, and spiritual significance. Turkistan's streets brim with vibrant Bazaars that offer local crafts, textiles, and traditional goods. This city's attractions are not only limited to historical sites but also extend to natural splendors. The Sasykkol Lake and Akyrtas Mountain offer surreal landscapes and activities for outdoor enthusiasts to relish bird-watching and hiking.

10. Aktobe

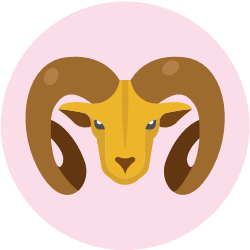
Aktobe is one of the most charming Kazakhstan cities that beckons travelers with its dynamic fusion of historical richness, natural beauty, and modern & urban life. This bustling city offers a unique cultural diversity that results in a multifaceted experience for travelers. The Aktobe's culture is a blend of various ethnic influences, making it a fascinating cultural pot. The locals of Aktobe are from Russia, Kazakh, Uzbek, and other groups. Packed with historical treasures, natural spaces, and festivals, Aktobe captivates travelers' hearts.

Explore the Enchanting Cities of Kazakhstan with Dook!

The land of natural treasures, historical marvels, and captivating sites- Kazakhstan is awaiting your arrival to unearth the hidden sides of this country. Through this list of the best Kazakhstan cities, you can unearth a new world that is yet to be known. To help you discover the whole of Kazakhstan, Dook International has many exciting tour packages. If you want to go to Kazakhstan, you can check out Dook's enticing travel packages. We can customize your travel experience as per your preferences. We assist you throughout the trip and ensure you enjoy your vacation stress-free. So, check out the Kazakhstan tour package you want and get on that much-awaited holiday you've been dreaming of.

Crystal Gaze **January 2023**

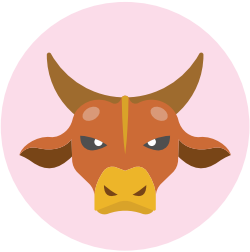
Loveena (Tarot card Reader, Numerologist)



Aries (March 21- April 19)

God & Angels want you to enjoy your life, you deserve the best! Soar with happiness. Angels are embracing you with blessings. Something magical will occur. Heaven is Showering you with love & Wealth.

Valentine Msg- Angels are blessing you with romance in your life.



Taurus (April 20- May 21)

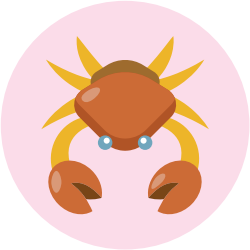
Seize Opportunities that come your way as Only Success lies ahead of you. Release your doubts to heaven. Let new energy come in your life. Success is indicated for business Ventures.

Valentine Msg- Bonds of love will be Strengthed.

Gemini (May 22- June 20)

Vibrant Opportunities in your Career will bring Financial gains. Everything is working out in a divinely perfect way. Let Heaven help you.you have prayed for help. Good news coming your way.

Valentine Msg- Be ready to meet Someone New.



Cancer (June 21- July 22)

Finances are favorably highlighted. Believe to attract & receive. Your time has come to collect your rewards. Celebration period ahead.

Valentine Msg- Divine timing is at work in your love life.

Leo (July 23- Aug 22)

Happiness awaits you now, all blocks in your relation are over. Visualise your dreams, Smooth road ahead. Spread your wings. Your dreams will be fulfilled.

Valentine Msg- Love will bring Surprises for you, giving you unexpected happiness.

Virgo (Aug 23- Sept 22)

Sunshine days ahead of you, Angels are protecting & guiding you. Deals will be finalized,Financially very good period ahead. Angels are blessing you with more Comfort, & luxury in your life.

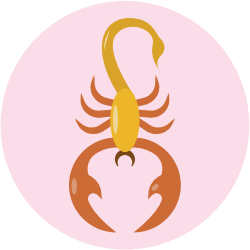
Valentine Msg- Thank the Universe, love blossoms

Tel no- 9619035624
Email id- loveenastro@rediffmail.com

Libra (Sept 23- Oct 22)

A change of location is foretold, go with the flow. A happy move to a new home will bring you positive new energy. Make a wish & enjoy its manifestation. Career will bring good news.

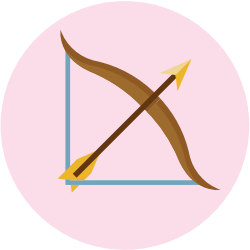
Valentine Msg- Let Universe bring Changes in your love life.



Scorpio (Oct 23- Nov 22)

Keep charging ahead, you are going closer to your goal, Time is right for new Career Opportunity in your life. Have faith. Rough phase is over.All Obstacles are over.Rejoice!

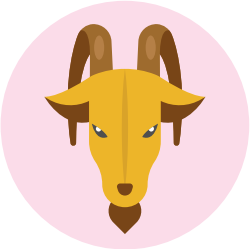
Valentine Msg - You will meet Someone interesting at a party.



Sagittarius (Nov 23- Dec 21)

Magical energy is Surrounding you. Positive energy is coming your way. A contract will be Signed bringing Abundance. You will triumph over Obstacles and Stumbling blocks. Stay Optimistic.

Valentine Msg - News from a loved one will bring happiness in your life.



Capricorn (Dec 22- Jan 20)

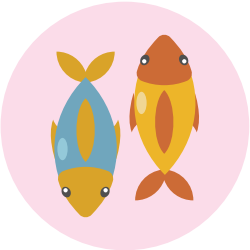
Finally Something good is going to happen, Stop worrying and Visualise a favorable outcome. Positive thinking attracts positive Situations and people your way. Finances are highlighted. Relax and let angels help you.

Valentine Msg - Be ready for romance in your life.

Aquarius (Jan 21- Feb 18)

Happy and joyous moments will delight you in the next few days. Along for wish comes true. Welcome the new dawn in your life. Your prayers have been heard by Universe. Health will be good.

Valentine Msg - Long lost friend will Surprise you.



Pisces (Feb 19- March 20)

Opportunities you have waited for will come to you .Your hard work and Creativity will make your dreams come true. Have faith. Expect Miracles in your life.

Valentine Msg - Express your love to your partner.

GLOBAL MOVIE

MAGAZINE & OTT

GLOBAL MOVIE
MAGAZINE & OTT